

Master Plan



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Introduction

The location and setting of Colorado Springs distinguish it from all other cities in the world. One look at the mountain backdrop, punctuated by Pike's Peak, tells immediately where you are. This is a landscape that is deeply embraced by the people of Colorado Springs, who cherish its beauty and majesty. Within this context lies a very special and significant place known as Red Rock Canyon.

Red Rock Canyon belongs to the people of Colorado Springs, having been acquired by the City in 2003. Prior to then, Red Rock Canyon was in private ownership. Even though it was inaccessible to the public, people were well aware of its natural scenic treasures, including massive ridges of brightly-hued pink sandstone and hidden canyons filled with lush vegetation and abundant wildlife.

As soon as the site became public property, it was crucial that a plan be developed to guide its use and protection. The public's enthusiasm for Red Rock Canyon dictated that the plan be developed in a timely fashion and address a diverse set of interests and concerns. This process began early in 2004, and an approved Master Plan was completed in June of the same year.

The process included a significant amount of public participation, as well as the efforts of a team of city staff and professional consultants. The adopted plan has been well received by the community, who is now anxious to see it implemented.



The Site

Red Rock Canyon Open Space consists of 789 acres of land located in Sections 3, 9, and 15 of Township 14 South, Range 67 West in El Paso County, Colorado. The land forms part of the western edge of Colorado Springs, where it abuts Manitou Springs. It is situated at the interface between the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains. Here, a series of hogbacks expose layers of sedimentary rock that have been turned upward at the base of Pikes Peak. Canyons run between the hogbacks, draining north into Fountain Creek. The canyons provide shelter for a variety of plants and wildlife, while the rocks of the hogbacks form colorful backdrops of salmon, gold, and other shades.

The rocks and canyons of Red Rock Canyon have also hosted a variety of human endeavors over time, especially during the last few decades. Among these are several quarries, where sandstone has been extracted from the vertical fins in the heart of the site, and gravel mines in the valley portions of the eastern half of the property. A large landfill operation was closed and sealed off in 1986, at the southeast end of the property. Other activities on the site have included a campground and a number of mobile-homes

sited throughout the lower portions of the property and along 31st Street.

Several ambitious plans in the past for resort development of the property never materialized. A large-scale model of the site showing high-rise towers, convention facilities, a golf course, and schematic drawings, are all that remain of this dream. The model is currently stored on the site in a cold-war era fallout shelter.

The site was in private ownership until 2003, when it was acquired by the City of Colorado Springs as open space. Acquisition was accomplished with funds from TOPS (Trails Open Space and Parks), GOCO (Great Outdoors Colorado), and conservation trust funds. The land was divided into five separate tracts, and fund sources were identified for each tract. This allowed the restrictions and requirements of each tract to be clearly associated with the funds used to acquire it. The land remained closed to the public, except for guided tours, while preparations were being made to accommodate the general public. This included coordinating the relocation of a number of tenants living on the property at

the time of acquisition, and the disposition of twenty-six mobile homes and houses scattered throughout the site. It also included completion of the master plan, and the installation of adequate facilities, such as parking, to accommodate and control the number of visitors.



Vicinity Map



Even though it has been officially closed to the public, the site is well-known and well-loved by local residents, who are anxiously awaiting opening the open space. They are intrigued by its unique scenic and geographic qualities. Its location also provides a connection to several square miles of public lands to the south. This property sits as a gateway to miles of primitive trails and back-country area belonging to various agencies. The most significant of these is Manitou Section 16, which lies immediately southwest of Red Rock Canyon. Manitou Section 16 contains challenging trails for hikers, mountain bikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

Topography

The dominant topographic features of the Red Rock Canyon site are a series of ridges or *hogbacks* trending from north to south through the site. These are the result of bedded sedimentary rock strata that were upturned during the formation of the Rocky Mountains. Differential weathering of the strata has resulted in a series of ridges and valleys as the softer material eroded away, leaving the resistant layers exposed. The

valleys between these ridges carry water from higher ground south and west of the site through the open space. Some of this water collects in reservoirs constructed by previous owners. In some places, the valleys are fairly steep in their northward descent towards Fountain Creek. There are five primary valleys on the property, each one a bit larger and more vegetated moving from east to west. The first two are not named at present, but the names Wild Horse and Gypsum may have been applied to them in the past. The next three are known today as Red Rock, Greenlee, and Sand Canyons.

Each canyon offers a different and unique experience for the visitor. The easternmost valley has mostly low vegetation, resulting in an open character that allows the eroded limestone rocks of the adjacent ridges to show prominently. This canyon and its ridges harbor some of the site's more unique flora.

Moving to the west across the site, the next canyon is the most altered of the four. Reportedly once deeply cut and densely vegetated along its bottom, it has been filled in with a sanitary landfill and mined extensively for gravel.

The third canyon in this series is known as Red Rock Canyon. It is the heart of the site and gives the property its name. Red Rock Canyon contains many of the site's unique cultural features, including large quarries cut into the sandstone ridge that forms the western wall of the canyon. A small cave is contained within the sheer sandstone of the eastern wall. The Bock Residence, with its associated outbuildings, ponds, and large lawn area, is located within the lower portion of Red Rock Canyon.



West of Red Rock Canyon is a rolling area with sandstone outcrops and ridges, known as Greenlee Canyon.

West of that is Sand Canyon. Sand Canyon is the least disturbed of the canyons, and is densely vegetated along its bottom and sides. The west wall of Sand Canyon forms the boundary between the open space and Manitou Springs, and is a rugged collection of sandstone outcrops and dells.

Elevations on the site range from a low point of 6,130 located at the northeast part of the site, to a high point of 6,740 at the ridgeline on the hogback in the southeast part of the site. South and west of the site, the land rises steeply, culminating at the summit of Pikes Peak, approximately 9 miles away.

The natural topography has been significantly altered in many places on the property. Roads have been cut, diversions and conveyances for water have been constructed, and both mining and landfill operations have occurred. An area along the northern edge has been significantly altered by cut and fill operations that resulted in a steep cut bank paralleling the Highway 24 right-of-way, with a wide

level plain on some 20 feet or more of fill in between the bank and the highway.

Other significant alterations include the filling of one of the canyons with a large sanitary landfill. This operation ceased in 1986 and the landfill was sealed. Monitoring of the landfill and other restrictions are required until at least 2020. North of the landfill, gravel has been extracted and the area reclaimed with grassland vegetation.

History

According to an archaeological study prepared by Snyder, et al in February of 2004, the earliest evidence of human occupation of the Red Rock Canyon site comes from projectile points found there that appear to be from the Archaic Stage, which dates from 7000 years B.P. (before present) up to 250 AD. Archaeological evidence from the Garden of the Gods, a short distance north of



Red Rock Canyon, dates to 6,000 B.P. Given the proximity to Fountain Creek and the abundance of deer and other wildlife found at Red Rock Canyon, it is likely that this site has offered food and shelter to humans throughout the habitation of the region.

The period from 100 AD until 1725 AD is known as the Later Prehistoric Stage. Although the only official record of prehistoric use of the site is a small lithic scatter near the heart of the property, it is known that many Native American tribes were present throughout the Pikes Peak region. The Jicarilla Apache and the Utes both considered Pikes Peak, Cave of the Winds, and other nearby sites to be sacred.

In the late 1800's the canyons yielded building supplies used in the settlement of Colorado City and the communities of Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, Fountain, and others. Gypsum and building sand were mined from the upper reaches of the site, and significant quarrying of the large ridge of sandstone running through the middle of the site occurred up until the very early 1900's.

A quarrying operation into the massive Kenmuir Sandstone formation was owned by the Greenlees of Denver. The Kenmuir Quarry site was a bustling operation, running seven days a week, and supporting offices, a boarding house, numerous cottages, and several buildings for machinery, livestock, shops, forges, etc. A rail line carried the quarried stone from Red Rock Canyon to be used in buildings throughout the region. The quarry closed in the early years of the 20th Century due to declining demand, as building stone was replaced with concrete and steel.

On the eastern edge of the site was the Colorado-Philadelphia Reduction Company mill, which refined ore shipped in by train from the gold mines of Cripple Creek. Opened in 1886, it was the largest mill of its kind in the United States. It operated until competition from the newer and more modern Golden Cycle Mill nearby caused its demise in the early years of the 1900's.

The property now known as Red Rock Canyon and the subject of this master plan was assembled in the 1920's and 30's by John George Bock. He first purchased land near

the entrance to Red Rock Canyon and started Roundup Stables to offer horseback rides into the scenic canyons nearby. He eventually purchased several parcels from his neighbors, bringing his spread to a size of 650 acres.

The land that John G. Bock acquired had been severely altered from its natural state. It was pockmarked with mines and quarries and littered with the debris of a half-century of occupation and exploitation. Attempting to mitigate some of this damage, he began to construct water diversions, dams, and other structures to control runoff through the site.

John G. Bock willed the property to his two sons, John H. and Richard Bock, who continued to live there until the late 1900's. The younger Bocks constructed residences and outbuildings in the lower end of Red Rock Canyon. A landfill operation, campground, gravel quarries, and mobile home rentals were some of the ventures by which they "lived off the land" in Red Rock Canyon. John H. eventually bought out Richard's share of the land. The City of Colorado Springs purchased the property from John H. Bock and set it aside for public



use, enjoyment, and protection as Red Rock Canyon Open Space. Strong public support urged the City to take this course of action. Red Rock Canyon was identified in the City's 1997 Open Space Master Plan for possible acquisition. Support from the Red Rock Canyon Committee, TOPS Working Committee, and Parks Board ultimately led to unanimous support on City Council for the protection of Red Rock Canyon.

Vegetation and Wildlife

The rugged topography of Red Rock Canyon harbors a wide range of habitats. Because the general pitch of the land is to the north, towards Fountain Creek, the overall aspect of the site is north-facing. The effect of this is that the Red Rock Canyon site is more moist than lands to the north, across Fountain Creek. The depth and narrow width of the canyons found on the Red Rock Canyon site also contribute to this moisture condition. The result is a landscape with relatively lush and diverse vegetation compared to other lands in the area, such as Garden of the Gods.

Although formed from the same geologic materials, Red Rock Canyon and Garden of the Gods offer two different experiences. Garden of the Gods has a more southernly aspect, so it is drier and more open than Red Rock Canyon.

The variety and density of the vegetation at Red Rock Canyon provides a rich habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Vegetation and wildlife are described in more detail in the next section of this report.



Opportunities & Constraints

An inventory and analysis of existing conditions was conducted as part of the planning process for Red Rock Canyon. The purpose of these investigations was to assemble a body of knowledge upon which planning decisions could be based. The site analysis provided a holistic understanding of how the land came to exist in its present state and condition, and the physical and cultural contexts in which it is situated. This information allows decisions to be made in ways that will protect the resources and preserve the conditions that make the site unique and desirable as public open space.

Summary of Findings

In general, it was found that the Red Rock Canyon site represents many valuable aspects of the natural environment of the region. The wide variety of terrain found at Red Rock Canyon results in several different ecological areas. A significant variety of plants and animals can be found occupying these different areas. This provides opportunities for exploration, discovery, and enjoyment to

future visitors. At the same time, Red Rock Canyon displays many interesting aspects of recent human activities within the region. This includes both the exploitation of land for building materials, home sites and other human needs, as well as attempts to reclaim and reshape the natural environment into an attractive home for its human occupants.

Taken together, the findings illustrate why the efforts of so many people have been focused on acquiring and preserving this property for future generations, and help define what steps are needed to accomplish this goal.

Methodology

The opportunities and constraints at Red Rock Canyon can be broadly grouped into two main categories: Physical and Political. The Physical Features Series includes geology and the natural environment, as well as constructed features such as roads, trails, quarries, etc. The Political Features Series includes the policies of the TOPS Ordinance, deed restrictions associated with funding sources for purchase of the property, and the needs wishes and desires of the general

public, interest groups, regulatory agencies and other stakeholders.

The Physical Features and the Political Features Series were evaluated by the combined team of Colorado Springs Parks Recreation & Cultural Services staff and the consultant team. The mapping illustrates and delineates sensitive areas that would be negatively impacted by change. The individual feature maps, that follow, combine inventory and analysis of each feature. These individual feature maps all follow the same mapping protocol – the darkest color indicating areas most sensitive to change; the lightest color indicating areas least sensitive to change. The final “Land Suitability Analysis - Sensitivity to Change Map” is the composite of both the Physical Features and the Political Features Series maps.



PHYSICAL FEATURES SERIES

Geology

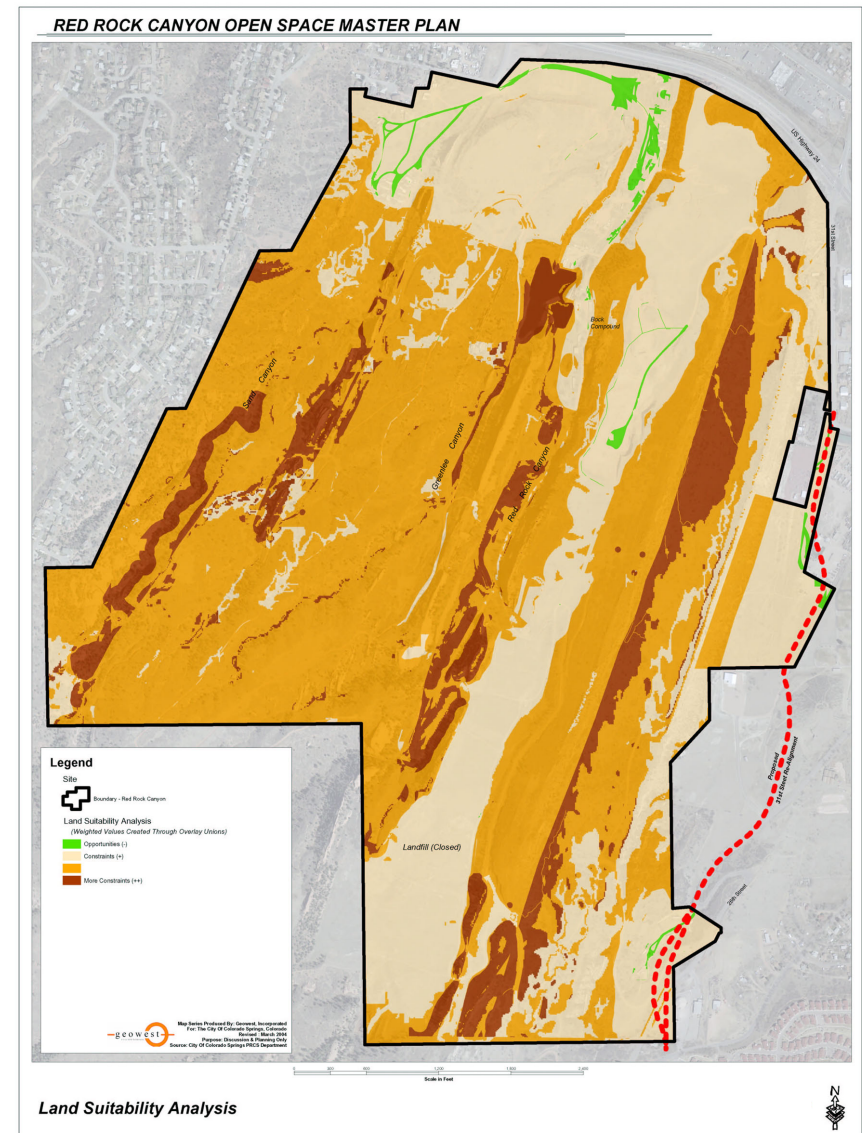
Set against the beautiful western foothills and 14,115 foot Pikes Peak, Red Rock Canyon is one of the best kept secrets in the Pikes Peak region, and a vital part of the scenic mountain backdrop to Colorado Springs. Its distinctive red sandstone monoliths and spires, balanced by white limestone and yellow-brown sandstone hogbacks, mark the transition between the plains and the mountains. Its most striking aspect from a distance is the long ridge of Niobrara sandstone which forms the visual panorama well known to Colorado Springs residents. The Red Rock Canyon Open Space area is actually several distinct canyons, separated by ridges of Lyons and Dakota sandstone. Many of the formations are wildly shaped sandstone fins, like those at the Garden of the Gods with better preservation and exposure of the Eastern most hogback formations. Upon closer inspection, the canyons expose 300 million years of geologic history and hold abundant clam, ammonite and plant fossils, shark's teeth, rippled sandstone, and the possibility of dinosaur bones. Coupled with the geology of

Pikes Peak, the area reveals one of the most extensive pictures of earth history found anywhere in the United States.

“Geology of the Red Rocks Area,” a report produced by Dr. Paul K. Grogger in Spring 2004, fully describes the Red Rock Canyon stratigraphic section and the characteristics (rock type, thickness, fossil presence, and depositional environment) of each formation within the four geologic periods represented in the Open Space. This report is on file and available at the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services office.

Recommendations:

- Great opportunities for interpretation in these



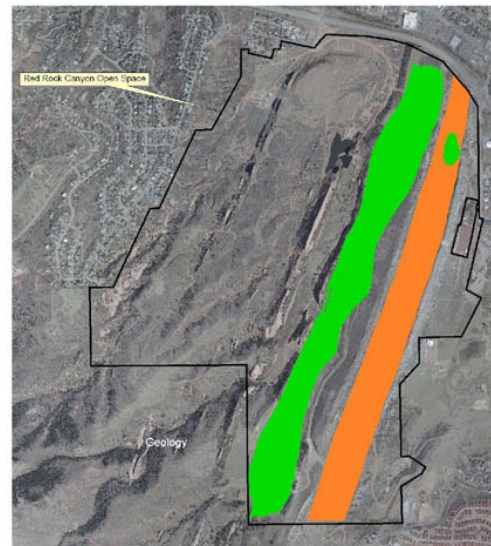
- minimally disturbed older formations and for a full Front Range geologic interpretation east to west through the site.
- Suggestions for further study include: Fossil Determination, Soil Analysis, Geomorphic Study, Mountain Building Investigation, and Weathering Type Study.

Topography and Hydrology

The topography and hydrology are directly determined by the geology. The generally north south laying rock fins create a series of canyons and drainages across the property – all draining north into Fountain Creek.

The topography in each of the canyons is generally steep on both sides along the rock fins and moderate in the broader centers. Throughout the property, previous owners have manipulated the topography. The most significant are the quarries, landfills and mobile home sites in Red Rock and Gypsum Canyons. Also on the northern- most edge, the property is generally flat due to over lot grading during previous Highway 24 construction.

The surface hydrology generally runs in the canyon bottoms, flowing south to north. The drainage bottoms are highly erosive and sensitive to disturbance. Previous owners have created a series of dams and diversions in Sand, Greenlee, and Red Rock canyons.

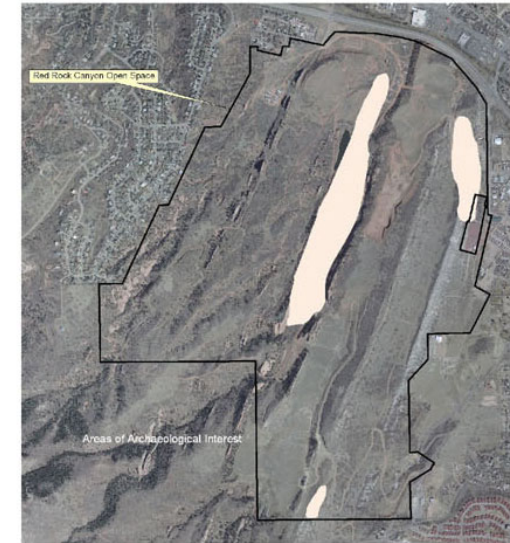


Geology

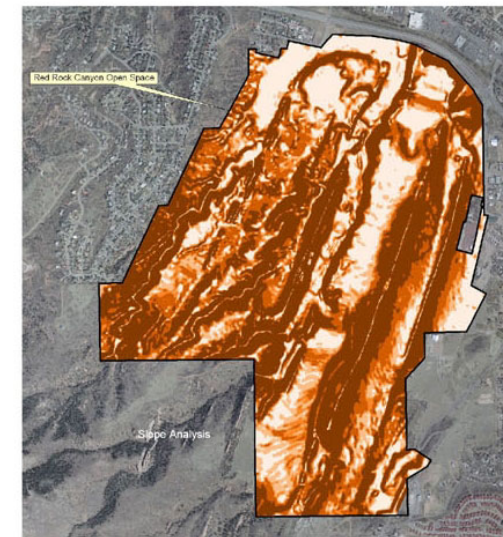
Legend

Suitability Analysis

- Opportunities (-)
- Constraints (+)
- More Constraints (++)



Slope Analysis



3 Stage Riparian Buffer



These continue to collect and concentrate surface water flow, erode significant gullies, and interrupt the natural hydrologic flows. The public process identified the two ponds near the Bock House to be unique and desirable features. Both dams passed state safety inspections initiated by the City prior to the property's purchase. Since the ponds' water is collected by some of the upstream diversions, these specific diversions should be maintained.

Recommendations:

- Utilize previously disturbed areas for visitor services development.
- Protect drainage bottoms from further disturbance.
- Restore natural hydrological flows throughout the property starting at the upper reaches of the drainages while maintaining water flows to the ponds.

Vegetation

The vegetation is directly influenced by the geology, topography and hydrology. Red Rock Canyon provides ecological contiguity for this region, serving as a corridor for both

wildlife and plants. The major plant community types were identified and their sensitivity evaluated based on significance, native quality and potential threats from disturbance.

“Plant Communities of the Red Rock Canyon Open Space, Colorado Springs,” a report produced by students of Dr. Tass Kelso in Fall 2003, fully describes the Red Rock Canyon plant communities and their subtle variations based on soil and exposure represented in the Open Space. This report is on file and available at the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services office.

Legend:

MS: **Mountain Shrub Community – Typical Density.** Includes Gambel's oak, mountain mahogany, and three leaf sumac as well as a mix of grasses typical to the Pikes Peak region.

MS1: **Mountain Shrub Community – More dense.** When this community includes grass mountain muhly, it is classified by the Colorado National Heritage Program as Conservation Rating SU (conservation concern based on unknown distribution)

MS2: **Mountain Shrub Community – More sparse.**

MG: **Mixed Grass Open Meadow.** Includes grasses found in the MS communities (little bluestem, rye grass, needle grasses, grama grasses, and muhly) as well as dropseed, wheatgrass and rice grass.

PJ: **Pinyon-Juniper Community.** Often found mixed with the Mountain Shrub Community, this includes pinyon pine, one-seeded juniper, understory grasses and at times ponderosa pine.

CC: **Cool Conifer Community.** Includes Douglas fir, Colorado blue spruce, ponderosa pine, white fir and pinyon pine with a relatively sparse understory.

MC: **Mixed Conifer Community.** Includes an equal mix of the Cool Conifer and Pinyon-Juniper communities with understory including Gambel's oak and mountain mahogany.



N: Niobara Community. Unique in its association with the calcareous bedrock and soils of the Niobara formation instead of topography. Includes four-winged saltbrush, winterfat, rabbitbrush, and mountain mahogany and mixes with the MS2 community type.

PO: Ponderosa-Oak Forest. Includes ponderosa pine, Gambel's oak and limber pine. Colorado National Heritage Program Conservation Rating S4 (some conservation concern)

DG: Disturbed Ground. Highly disturbed areas comprised of invasive and nonnative plants with little or no native value.

DM: Disturbed Mix. Disturbed areas comprised of invasive and nonnative plants mixed with strong native plant populations.

W: Wetlands - Artificially Created. Although artificially created these wetland could support rare plant species.

The colons (:) indicate areas where two plant communities intermix. The dominant community type is listed first.

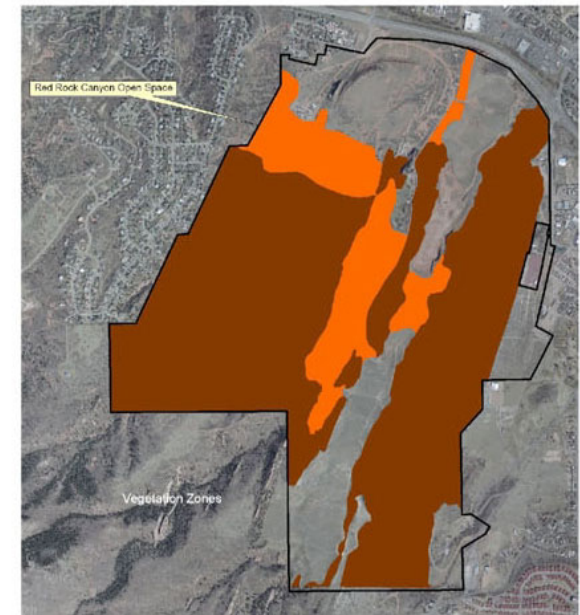
Narrowleaf Cottonwood Communities:

These areas are not mapped due to their small size. Include narrowleaf cottonwood, sandbar and Bebb willow, wild rose, box elder, snowberry, ninebark and chokecherry. These rare plant communities are identified by the Colorado National Heritage Program Conservation Rating S1 and S4 (highest conservation concern)

Area 1: Most sensitive to disturbance. Dominated by native species with few invasive weeds and little prior disturbance.

Area 2: Moderately Sensitive to disturbance. Strong native plant and invasive weed populations with some prior disturbance.

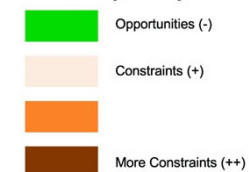
Area 3: Little sensitivity to disturbance. Highly disturbed areas dominated by invasive plants with few native plant species.



Vegetation Zones

Legend

Suitability Analysis



Recommendations:

- Field locate and protect the Colorado National Heritage Program Conservation Rated Communities and undisturbed Sand Canyon Communities from disturbance.
- Create in-depth inventory of wetlands species.
- Perform invasive Weed Control through eradication and minimizing seed distribution by careful trail routing.
- Follow best management practices during construction to minimize invasive plant seeding and establishment.
- Reclaim and revegetate disturbed areas with native species.





Wildlife

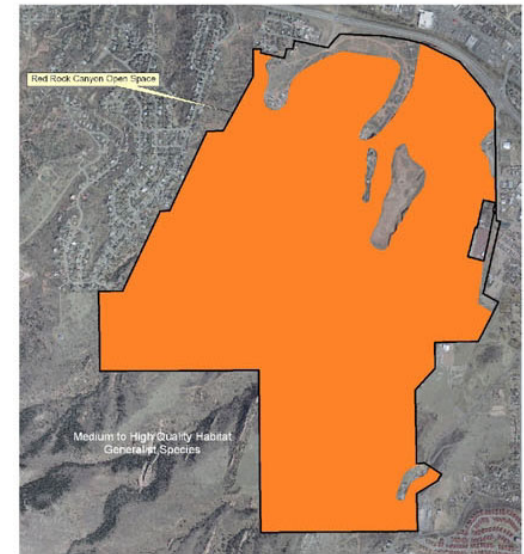
The wildlife is best understood by assessing the overall quality of habitat. The majority of the property contains medium to high-quality habitat for upland generalist species such as coyote, mule deer, raccoon, squirrel, rabbit magpie, crow, blue jay, robin and raptors. The man-made pond area provides medium- to high-quality habitat for riparian generalists species. Medium- to high-quality peregrine falcon and Townsend's big-eared bat nesting habitat is also located in several areas on the

property. Mexican spotted owl critical habitat has been designated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and does occur over a considerable portion of the property, however Mexican spotted owls are most likely present along the side of canyons mapped on *Habitat Quality for Sensitive Species*. The disturbed areas of this property provide the least amount of habitat for existing wildlife.

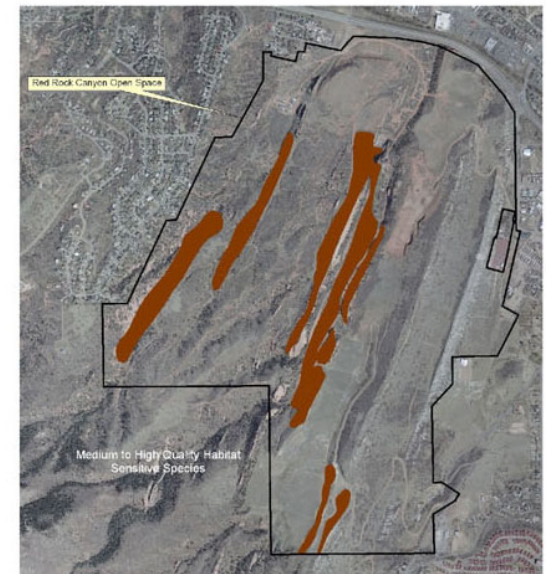
“Habitat Quality Report, Red Rock Canyon Park, City of Colorado Springs, Colorado,” a report produced by Greystone Environmental Consultants, Inc. in March 2004, fully describes the Red Rock Canyon habitat evaluation, methods, and detailed recommendations concerning wildlife protection in the Open Space. This report is on file and available at the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services office.

Legend

Suitability Analysis	
	Opportunities (-)
	Constraints (+)
	
	More Constraints (++)



Medium to High Quality Habitat Generalist Species



Medium to High Quality Habitat Sensitive Species



Legend:

Habitat Quality for Generalist Species:

Medium to High – Upland Generalist Species

Medium to High – Riparian Generalist Species

Low – Upland & Riparian Generalist Species

Habitat Quality for Sensitive Species:

Medium to High

Low

Recommendations:

- Develop a Wildlife Management Plan in conjunction with El Paso County, the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This plan may include big game winter and raptor breeding season closures.
- Minimize habitat disturbance by fencing boundaries close to residential areas, managing access points and thoughtful trail routing,
- Seek concurrence of Mexican spotted owl habitat quality with USFWS by requesting a site visit by an agency representative.
- Maintain ecological importance of pond and associated riparian area by minimizing disturbance and reclaiming with a native wetland vegetation mix. Determine if this area is considered a wetland by the Corps

of Engineers to assure regulatory compliance for future work. Assess area for Preble's mouse habitat.

- Survey property in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Prepare a model of habitat suitability for Red Rock Canyon's indicator species to allow comparison, over time, of habitat quality to the baseline index.

Existing Features

Red Rock Canyon has a long history of change including quarry mining, gravel mining, water capture, landfills, housing and recreation and their associated infrastructure of roads, dams, culverts, walls and utilities. All the existing manmade features were located, evaluated, rated with regard to sensitivity to change, and mapped. Careful evaluation and consideration regarding the landfill and quarry sites was undertaken by the City prior to the property's purchase; these findings and recommendations were integrated in this master plan process. A more detailed description of the Bock House compound is included in the *Historical Context* portion of this report.

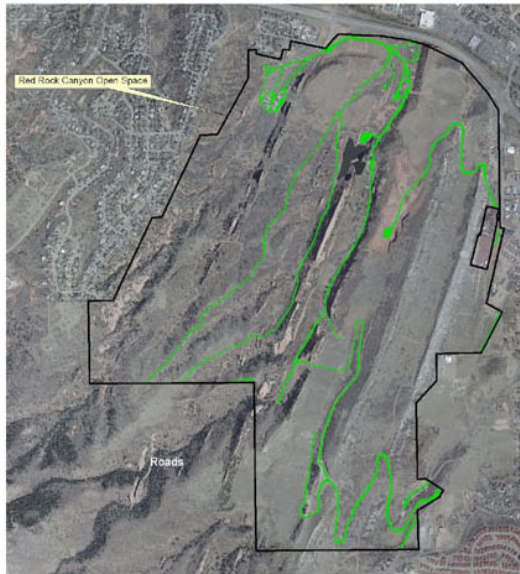
Recommendations:

- Remove all fences, the hanging gardens, trailers, and buildings without historical significance to the property.
- Where reasonable to minimize further resource damage, restore graded roads to become sustainable trails.
- Continue to monitor the landfill for the remainder of its projected "life" – anticipated to be 17 years hence.
- Evaluate existing utilities for use in the Open Space infrastructure. Properly abandon unused utilities. Pursue underground options for the electrical transmission lines crossing east west through the mid portion of the property.

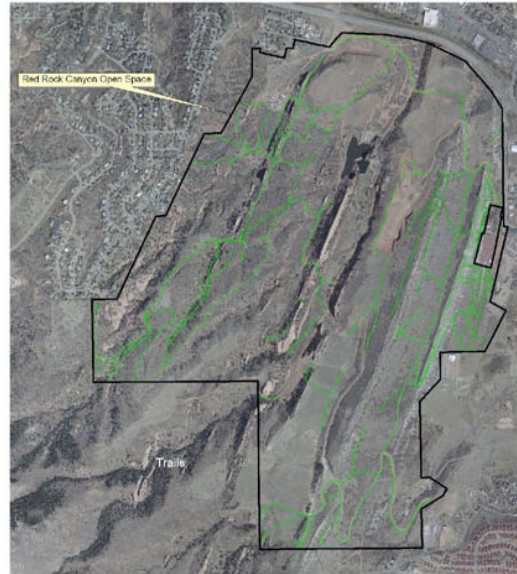
Historical Context

Aside from its scenic and geologic attributes, Red Rock Canyon has a rich human history. The Ute Indians traveled and hunted in the canyons, and some believe, resided in the canyons. During the initial site investigations of this master plan, small lithic scatters and various isolated artifact finds, dating from 7000 B.P. to the 1800's AD, were recorded. Archeological sites are on record at the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services office.

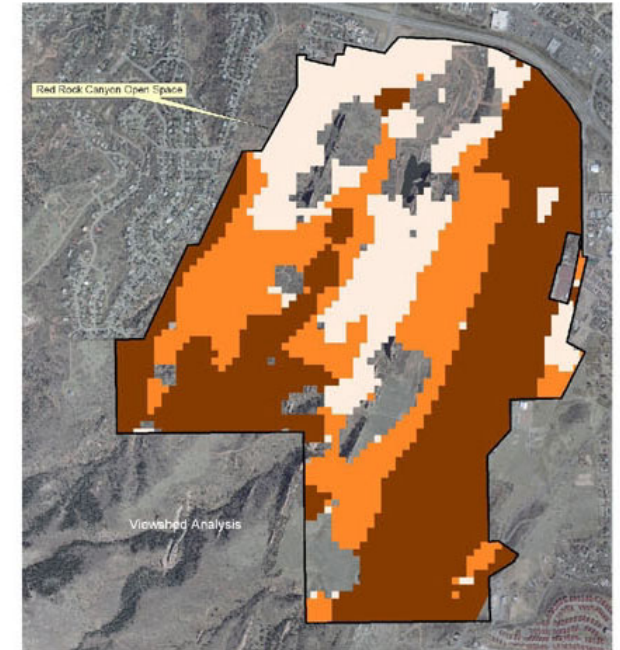




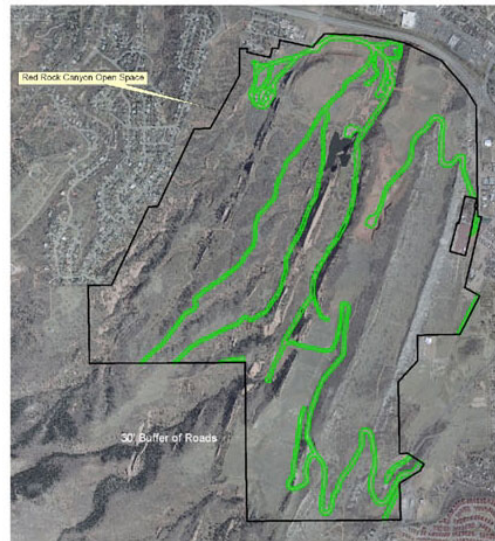
Roads



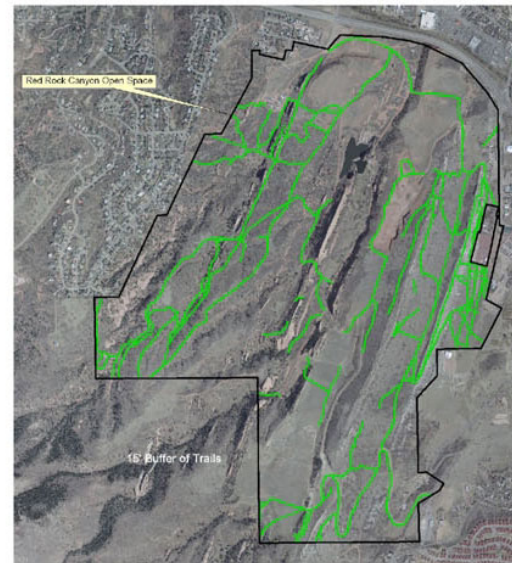
Trails



Viewshed Analysis



30' Buffer of Roads



15' Buffer of Trails

Legend

Suitability Analysis

- Opportunities (-)
- Constraints (+)
- More Constraints (++)



After the western expansion, a large quarry operation sprang up as sandstone became a favorite building material throughout the world. During the late 1800's and early 1900's, massive salmon pink and yellow sandstone blocks were chiseled out of the ridges and fashioned into several area buildings including two dorms at the Colorado College, the Midland Railroad Roundhouse and Glen Eyrie Castle. The Bott and Langmyer Building Stone quarries went silent over 100 years ago - a victim of the discovery of steel, but remains of the quarry are still visible and provide a unique look into the area's past. In 1896, at the foot of the hogbacks, near the eastern edge of Red Rock Canyon Open Space, the Colorado-Philadelphia Reduction Company built a chlorination mill for refining Cripple Creek gold ore. It was the largest of its kind in the United States. Its productive life was cut short by the construction of the nearby, more efficient cyanide process, Golden Cycle Mill.

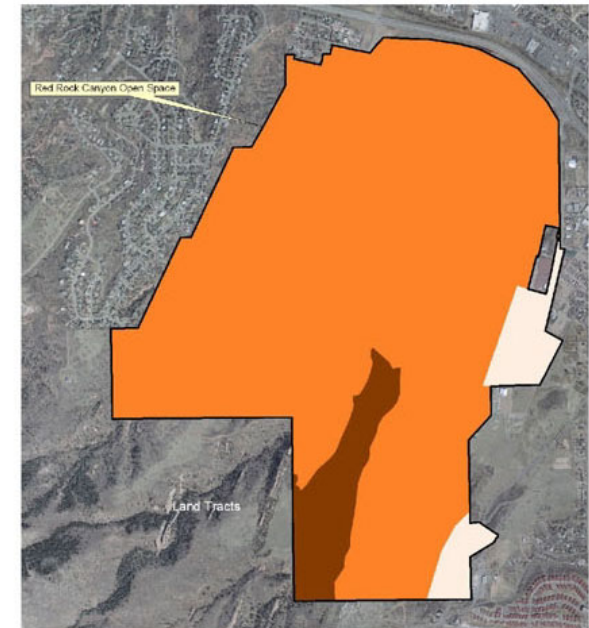
In 1938, John G. Bock acquired the Red Rock Canyon property. In addition to several family homes, Mr. Bock built his own Prairie Style inspired home, a bomb shelter/garage,

and several out buildings. The Bock family had grand plans for developing the property as a world class tourist destination, complete with a golf course, man-made lakes, convention center and high-end accommodations. These plans never panned out, resulting in the natural environment of Red Rock Canyon remaining largely intact and pristine.

Recommendations:

- Further evaluation and study of the main buildings at the Bock Compound. Possible alternatives include, but are not limited to, restoration, adaptive re-use, or demolition.
- Continue research of the features along the hogback.
- Consider Native American consultations on possible sacred sites, traditional cultural properties and/or interpretation of features found in the property.
- Consider nominating the remaining infrastructure of the Red Rock Canyon and Bott quarries, as well as, the Colorado-Philadelphia Reduction Company Mill to the Federal Register of Historic Places, as historic districts.

- Subsurface testing below the Cave could help to understand the history and the prehistory of the area.



Land Tracts

Legend

Suitability Analysis

- Opportunities (-)
- Constraints (+)
-
- More Constraints (++)



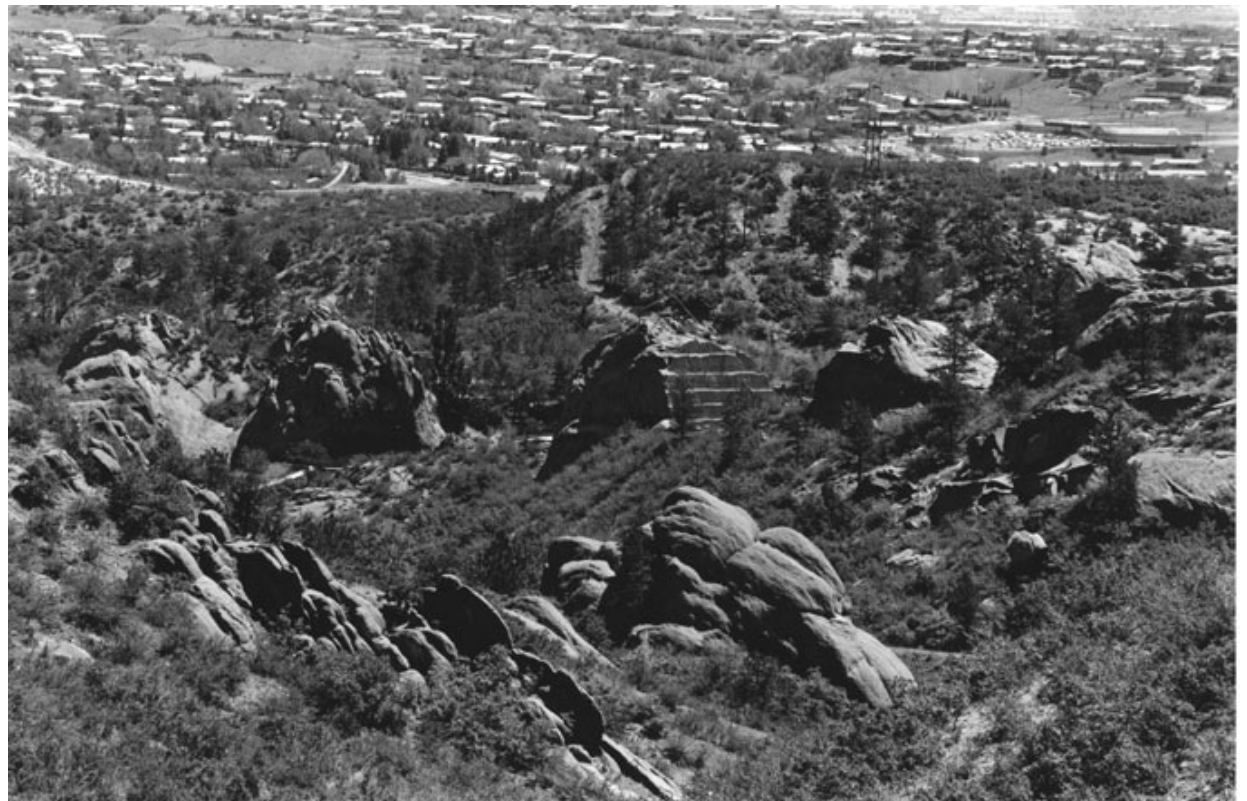
POLITICAL FEATURES SERIES

Upon visiting Red Rock Canyon and seeing its beauty firsthand, it becomes evident that protecting the area is a worthy endeavor. However, the process of purchasing the land and saving it from development was a long and challenging process. In 1998, the City of Colorado Spring Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) Program first approached Mr. Bock about buying the Red Rock Canyon Property. After many failed attempts to negotiate a deal, the City partnered with the Trust for Public Land in 2001 to help broker an arrangement that would be suitable for all parties. Two years later, a deal was struck and the City agreed to pay the Bock family \$12.5 million for the spectacular 789-acre property. Funds for the purchase were obtained from the TOPS Program, Colorado Lottery, Great Outdoor Colorado and the City of Manitou Springs. To allow flexibility in the open space planning, the property was purchased in five separate tracts.

Tract A, the largest at 653 acres and most pristine by far, was purchased using TOPS funds that require the land to be preserved as

open space and comply with the TOPS Ordinance in providing limited user services and only passive recreation opportunities. The remaining parcels, Tracts B-E, were funded through the other sources allowing a variety of compatible uses and activities to be considered in the master planning process.

Buying the property was only part of the challenge. With the deed in hand the TOPS Program faced the challenge of opening the area to the public in a timely manner, while ensuring that the development of the open space would not negatively impact the natural qualities that make it so special. To meet the



needs of the public and natural environment, the City launched an aggressive master planning process that involved numerous town meetings and scientific evaluations. With the help and input of the local citizens, user groups, Friends of Red Rock Canyon, Intemann Trail Committee, Medicine Wheel and Palmer Land Trust, the TOPS Program developed this comprehensive Master Plan for the Red Rock Canyon Open Space that will guide the construction of trails and amenities.

Throughout the master planning process, compliance with all applicable TOPS and City of Colorado Spring policies and the City's available resources were considered. During the process, the communities' strong concern over the adjacent Section 16 and its future development or preservation was acknowledged. Although not part of this master plan or under the City of Colorado Springs' jurisdiction at this time, several of the recommendations reflect the communities' concerns.

Recommendations:

- Continue pursuit to preserve in perpetuity the adjacent Section 16.
- Continue effort to coordinate management plans and policies of the adjacent Manitou Section 16 to preserve and protect the resources of both properties.
- Consider purchase or lease agreements with adjacent property owners where they make sense - most notably the Church property adjacent to the southeast corner that may provide a link for the Chamberlain Trail.



Potential Revenue & Partnering

During the initial analysis and investigations for this project, ideas and possibilities were explored for generating revenue and partnering with other groups to develop and manage facilities within the open space.

The possibilities investigated included the rental of picnic shelters and pavilions for weddings, company picnics, and other events.

Fees for on-site parking were also considered, as were fees for the use of the proposed Free-Riding biking area.

Opportunities for partnerships with user groups and “friends” organizations were considered avenues to develop infrastructure and provide a pod for volunteer resources.

Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department currently offers a number of pavillion areas to the public for use by reservation with a fee. Reservations may be made in person or over the phone. Some locations require a key for access, which must be picked up at the Headquarters office.

Fees currently range from \$15.00 per hour to \$300.00 per day, depending on the facility and type of use. Use of facilities is subject to park rules as established by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.

Recommendations are as follows:

FREE-RIDING -- RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE

Free-Riding mountain biking is a relatively new sport engaging natural objects such as rocks, logs and vegetation or man made objects such as ramps, ladders and rails for jumping, gliding or basically free wheeling.

Unfortunately the downside of this form of recreation is that it is sometimes being done illegally on public lands and causing severe damage to the environment.

In an effort to meet the needs of these bicyclists, free-riding areas are being established. Similar to skateboard parks, these areas allow for a controlled

environment that encourages use of these facilities rather than destructive and illegal use in other areas.

IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association)

The IMBA has defined free-riding as “a style of mountain biking that celebrates the challenges and spirit of technical riding and downhillling.”

As strongly as they feel about having access to public lands they also feel that illegal activities such as unauthorized free-riding do damage not only to the environment but also to the reputation to mountain bikers in general. The IMBA states that they have no viable defense for off-trail riding that tramples plants or otherwise damages the environment.



Free-Riding - A Fee Based Activity?

The question of pay for play is becoming more and more of an issue for public lands. As the number of users increases so does the amount of management funding required to keep areas from being “loved to death”.

Paying a fee to use a trail system has precedent in places such as the State Parks Systems across the country, and may be a consideration for a special-use activity such as free-riding within a site like Red Rock Canyon. Whether or not such a decision is made, it makes sense to consider some form of partnership with the cycling community, including free-riders.

Understanding that free-riding areas have costs associated with construction and maintenance, both the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) and Medicine Wheel Bicycle Club encourage partnering with local mountain biking groups to recruit volunteers for construction, maintenance and policing. Volunteer groups cannot only offer labor but also expertise on trail building and maintenance. Volunteer groups can also be members of the National Mountain Biking Patrol which educates trail users on proper etiquette and use of trail systems.

ROCK CLIMBING

Rock climbing is another activity with good potential for partnering. There is an established relationship between the climbing community and the City of Colorado Springs. The relationship could lead to positive benefits for both in Red Rock Canyon. Climbers participated in the public process for master planning Red Rock Canyon and are well aware of the opportunities and constraints for climbing within the site. Specific areas for climbing will be designated in cooperation with representatives of the climbing community. The operation and management of climbing areas should continue to build upon the involvement of climbers to enforce rules and etiquette, and to maintain climbing areas in good condition. See Appendix C for more detailed information.

DOGS OFF-LEASH

A trail has been designated on the plan for the allowance of walking dogs off-leash. Partnering with local groups such as the Humane Society and canine rescue organizations could help in managing and maintaining this area. Volunteers may be found to assist in keeping the area clean and enjoyable for all users.



Process

BACKGROUND

The public planning process was designed to provide the opportunity for all area residents interested in the Red Rock Canyon Open Space master plan to have an equal hand in guiding its creation. The intent of the process was to create a master plan by drawing together the experience and preferences of community residents with the planning and design expertise and experience of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff and consultant team. A total of 442 people participated in the master planning process, with many of those people attending multiple meetings.

In planning for the public involvement process, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff identified a set of “givens,” non-negotiable elements that set the parameters for the master planning process.

THE PROCESS

Master plan decisions were cumulatively made through a series of five public workshops. So that people participating in the process could develop judgment about the property, the first two workshops on February 11 and March 3, 2004 focused on providing information about the land itself and the opportunities and constraints associated with it. At those meetings, information was provided about the project “givens,” as well as about the site’s geology, biology and vegetation, archeology and wildlife. A detailed analysis that identified areas on the site disturbed and those that remain most fragile was also presented. At the first workshop, participants were asked to identify the issues important to them as the plan was developed. At the second workshop, people were asked to complete a questionnaire about their use of the property, including frequency of visits, length of stay and other factors to be used by the planning team in planning design.

GIVENS

- ❖ The Master Plan must conform to provisions in the Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) Ordinance and the Colorado Springs Parks Rules and Regulations Ordinances.
- ❖ The name of the property will be Red Rock Canyon Open Space.
- ❖ Residents currently residing in mobile homes and houses on the property are being assisted with relocation by the City of Colorado Springs.
- ❖ The property is owned by the City of Colorado Springs and will be annexed to the City and zoned PK for parks.
- ❖ Because of erosion, safety and regulatory concerns, the 53-acre site of the former landfill will not be accessible to the public for a maximum of 17 years.
- ❖ Decisions regarding the 31st Street extension and Highway 24 improvement projects are beyond the purview of this master planning process.
- ❖ Many groups and individuals are interested in and encouraged to help



develop the best possible master plan for Red Rock Canyon Open Space; all voices will be equal in the decision-making process.

- ❖ The recommended Master Plan will be submitted to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board for approval.

- Non-Motorized Traffic
- Ponds
- Parking
- Preservation / Sustainability
- Public Access
- Public Involvement
- Safety / Security
- Timing on use of the property
- Volunteers
- Miscellaneous Concerns

VII. Uses

- Equestrian
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking / Free Riding
- Rock Climbing
- Spiritual

ISSUES SUMMARY

I. Cultural Values

- Interpretive Program
- Interpretive / Visitor Center
- National Historic Registry listing

II. Land Development

- Highway 24 Frontage Property
- Level of Development

III. Management

- Access for people with disabilities
- Annexation
- Dogs
- Maintenance
- Naming

IV. Natural Values

- Biology
- Geology
- Wildlife

V. Neighborhood Impacts

- Traffic / Parking
- Light / Noise Pollution
- Security / Safety
- Trash / Restrooms

VI. Trails

- Trail Connections
- Trail Design
- Trail Uses



At the third workshop on March 10, participants were put to work shaping their judgment and ideas into proposed plans. They were first asked to review and revise or confirm proposed Master Plan goals which were developed by the project team based on the issues people had identified, their preferences for use, and the responsibilities and needs of the Department. After confirming the goals, people then worked in 14 small groups to produce site plans for trails and other uses and to forward recommendations from each group.

The consistencies and interesting ideas contained in these 14 site plans served as the basis for the draft concept plan developed by the staff / consultant planning team. The draft concept plan was presented for public review at the fourth workshop on April 14, 2004. Responses to the draft plan guided the team's revisions to the recommended plan which was presented to the public at a final fifth workshop/open house on May 5. Final minor revisions were then made to the plan, based on public response received on May 5.

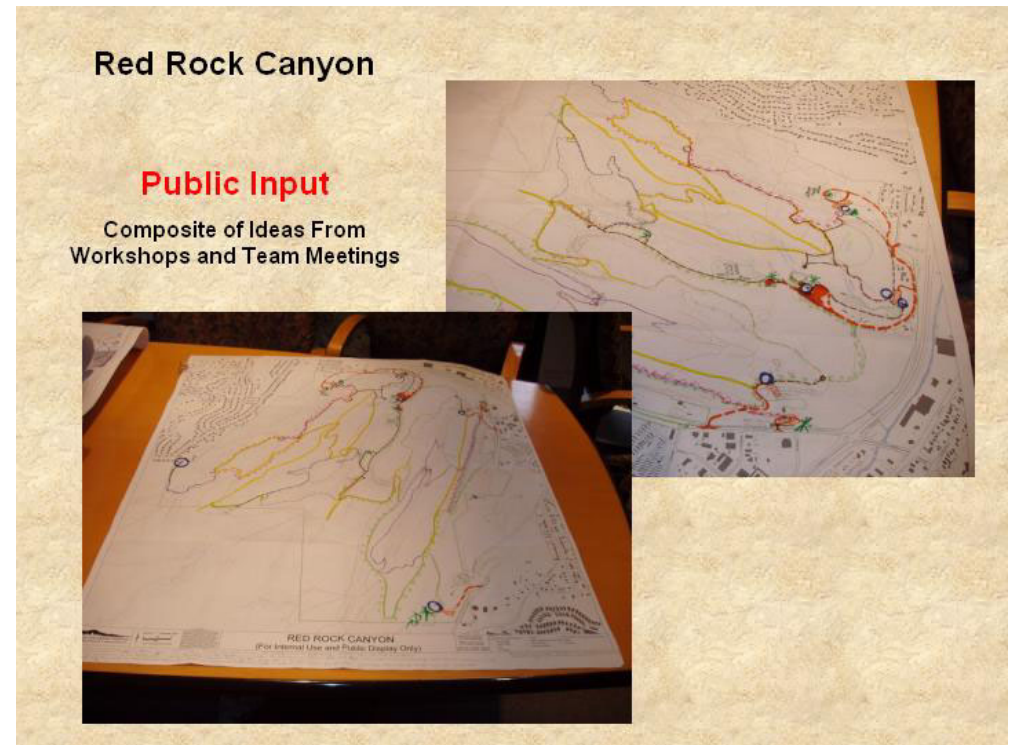
The final recommended plan was presented for review to the TOPS Working Committee and was presented to and approved by the

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board on June 17, 2004.

MASTER PLAN GOALS

- ❖ Preserve, protect and enhance the natural, visual and cultural values of the property
- ❖ Facilitate regional connections to trail and open space systems
- ❖ Create a plan that is attainable within a reasonable period of time and budget and is sustainable over time

- ❖ Foster a legacy of stewardship through experience and learning
- ❖ Provide for recreational use and access compatible with the other goals of the Red Rock Canyon Open Space Master Plan.

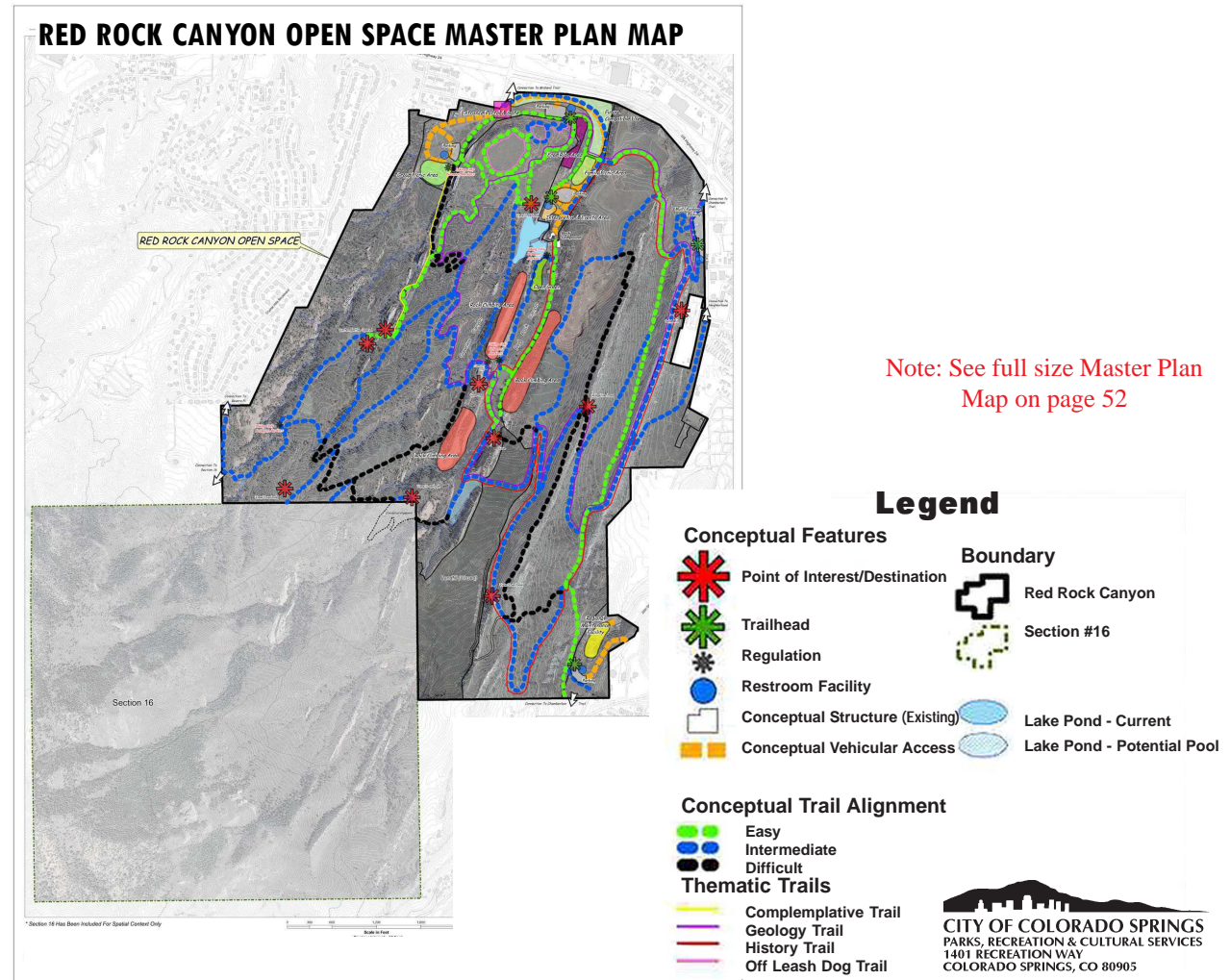


The Master Plan

The adopted master plan for Red Rock Canyon Open Space is based upon the specific goals identified for Red Rock Canyon, which were listed in the previous section.

The plan also honors the restrictions associated with each tract, according to the requirements of the funding sources used to acquire the tract. The plan attempts to balance the wide variety of needs and interests expressed by the public with the goal of protecting the natural beauty and habitat value of the site. It also respects the limited resources available to improve, manage, and maintain a site of this size and complexity.

During the planning process for this site, it became evident that the scale and character of Red Rock Canyon puts it on a par with the Garden of the Gods. Comparisons between the two sites were commonly heard during the process. However, a desire was expressed to differentiate Red Rock Canyon from the Garden of the Gods by putting a primary focus on its use by local residents rather than the national and international visitors that are attracted to Garden of the Gods. The fact that Red Rock Canyon Open Space also serves as a gateway and connecting link to a much



Note: See full size Master Plan Map on page 52



larger collection of public lands was also significant.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The plan for Red Rock Canyon envisions an area that offers all people the opportunity to experience this unique and beautiful place. The focus is on providing access through a variety of multi-use trails and the support facilities needed to serve them. Trails throughout the site have been planned to accommodate a wide range of abilities and interests, and to offer a variety of experiences that will make multiple visits to Red Rock Canyon Open Space worthwhile.

The plan also allows for other uses in appropriate locations. Some of these that have been identified on the plan include a Free-Riding course for bicycling and an off-leash dog area, and facilities for group picnics and other events. Parking areas and trailheads have also been identified around the site.

Areas in Tract E are available for other potential future uses. These are not determined at this time, but could include such things as shared or joint-use facilities.

For example, the U.S. Forest Service has considered the possibility of locating a visitor information center here. Any future uses will require review and approval by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board and must also support the goals for Red Rock Canyon Open Space outlined in this report.

The plans for the former Bock residence are not finalized at this time. Work is still being done to determine the historic and cultural significance of the structures, as well as the feasibility of their use for various purposes. This plan recommends stabilizing these structures until a determination is made about their future disposition.

TRAILS

The largest portion of the site lies within Tract A. Allowed uses in this tract are limited to trails and related facilities. As a result, the focus of the park overall is on preserving the natural qualities of the land, while providing access through a series of non-motorized trails. Trails are the defining and organizing element of the overall site. With this in mind, a strategy was developed to organize trails

into a system that served the various (and sometimes conflicting) desires of the public.

Plans for trails within the site were approached with several perspectives in mind. One of these was the variety of experiences expected by visitors. A questionnaire was distributed to determine the lengths, durations, and other aspects of a typical visit to the park. People were asked about the number of persons that would likely be in their party, how they would arrive at the site, and whether they would be using the trails for walking, biking, horseback riding, etc. Based on this information, trails were arranged to allow for a variety of visitor experiences. For example, a first-time visitor might arrive by car and park at a trailhead. The visitor would find a kiosk with a trail map and other information about the features to be found at Red Rock Canyon. This visitor might decide to take a relatively short and easy hike of an hour or less into the center of the open space that would allow him to see such “highlights” as the lower part of Red Rock Canyon, with its refreshing pond, historic structures, and grassy lawn, then proceed to the historic quarry for a dramatic look at the sculpted sandstone walls and a



panoramic view of the canyon and surrounding terrain. He might continue on a short distance to the base of the cave and then return to the parking lot along the main trail in the bottom of the canyon.

Returning on another day, this visitor might elect to take a longer hike of several hours along a loop that allows him to explore the natural history of the site and learn something about the geology of the region. On his third visit, the visitor might decide to bring his mountain bike and spend the entire day exploring the site and venturing into the challenging terrain of Section 16 and beyond.

To accommodate this variety of experiences, the trail system is designed to offer several different types of trails, interconnected into a series of loops wherever possible.

The overall concept for the trail system is based upon two classification schemes:

1. Categorization of trails by degree of difficulty.
2. Thematic categories.

Classifications by Degree of Difficulty

For the first categorization, a system similar to that used for skiing has been adopted. Coloradoans are familiar with this system and understand it intuitively. Trails were classified as easy, intermediate, or difficult. A color designation for each class was adopted that matches the system used for ski slopes: green for easy, blue for intermediate, and black for difficult. The specific criteria for each type of trail are on the following pages.



Red Rock Canyon

Easy Trails

(4.65 Miles)

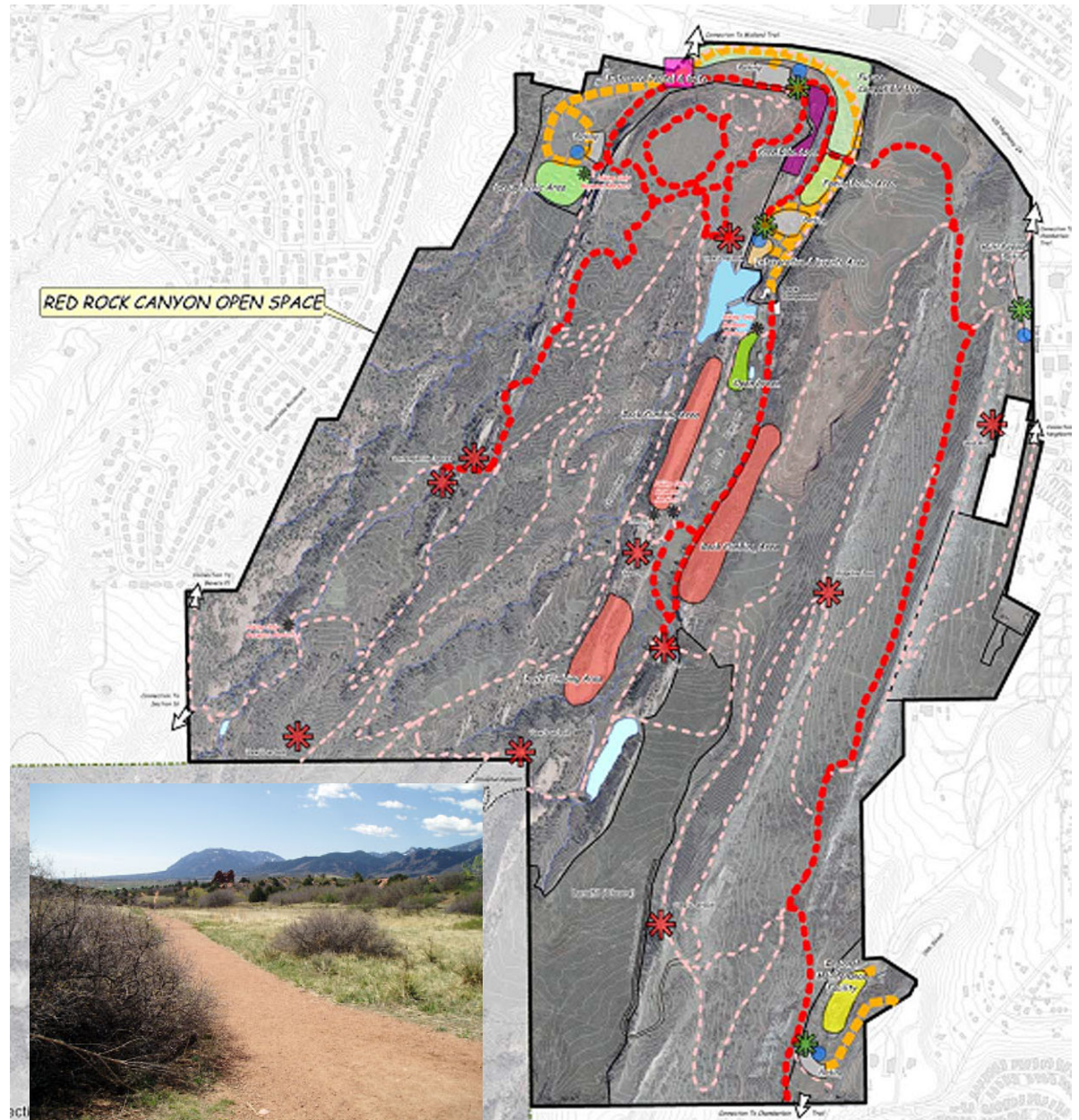
Slopes Less Than 5%

Minimum Width 5'

Smooth Surface without
Obstructions

Easy Trails

These are trails that offer wide and smooth surfaces at relatively low degrees of slope. These trails will meet the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, and will not have steps or other obstacles in them.



Red Rock Canyon

Intermediate Trails

(9.89 Miles)

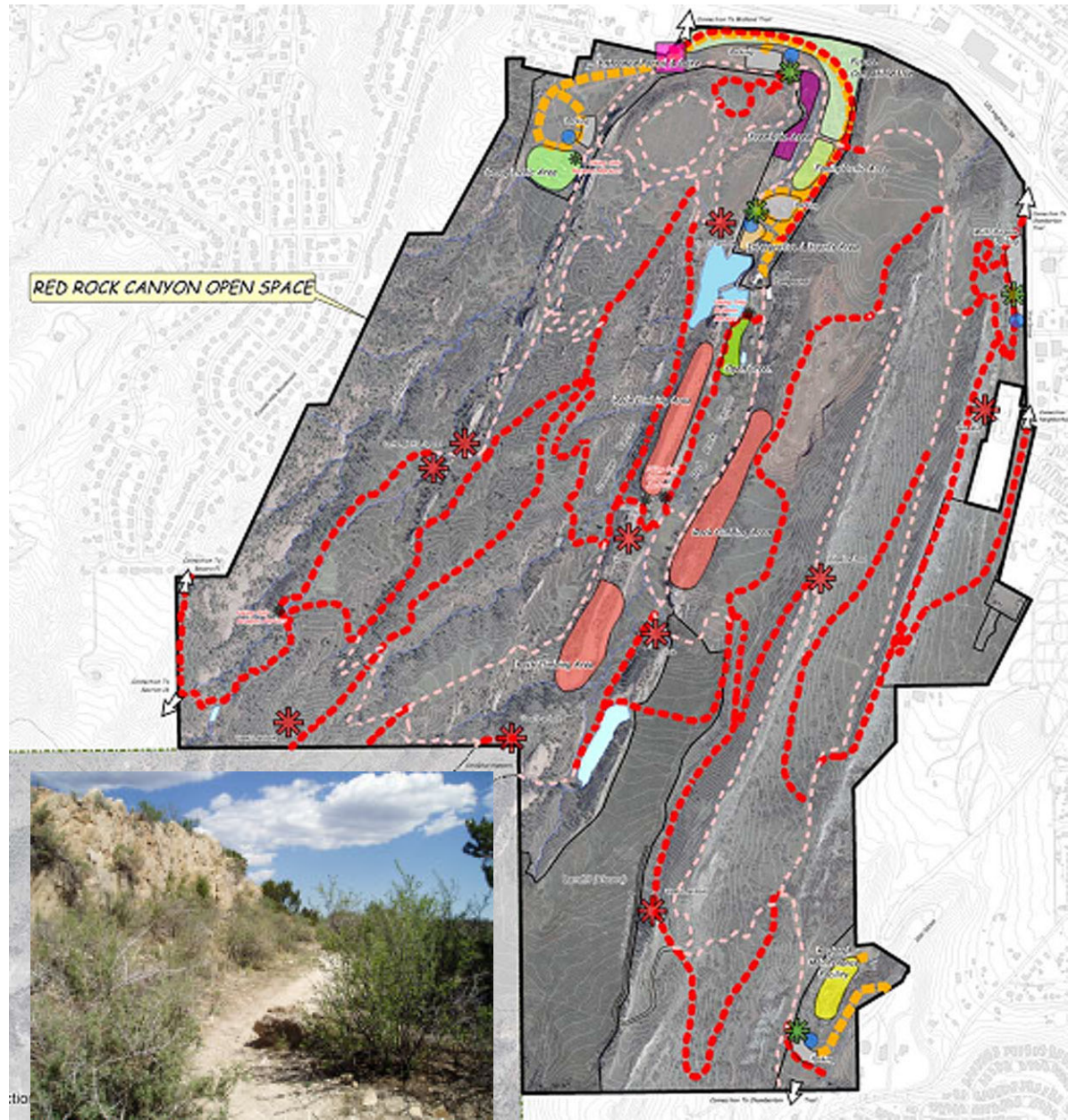
Slope 0 – 10%

Typical Width Approx. 3'-18"

Variable Surface – Steps, Water Bars, Rocks, Etc.

Intermediate Trails

These trails are narrower than the easy trails and may have obstructions such as water diversions, steps, or exposed rocks on their surface. Gradients on Intermediate trails should not exceed 10%, except for short distances.



Red Rock Canyon

Difficult Trails

(3.07 Miles)

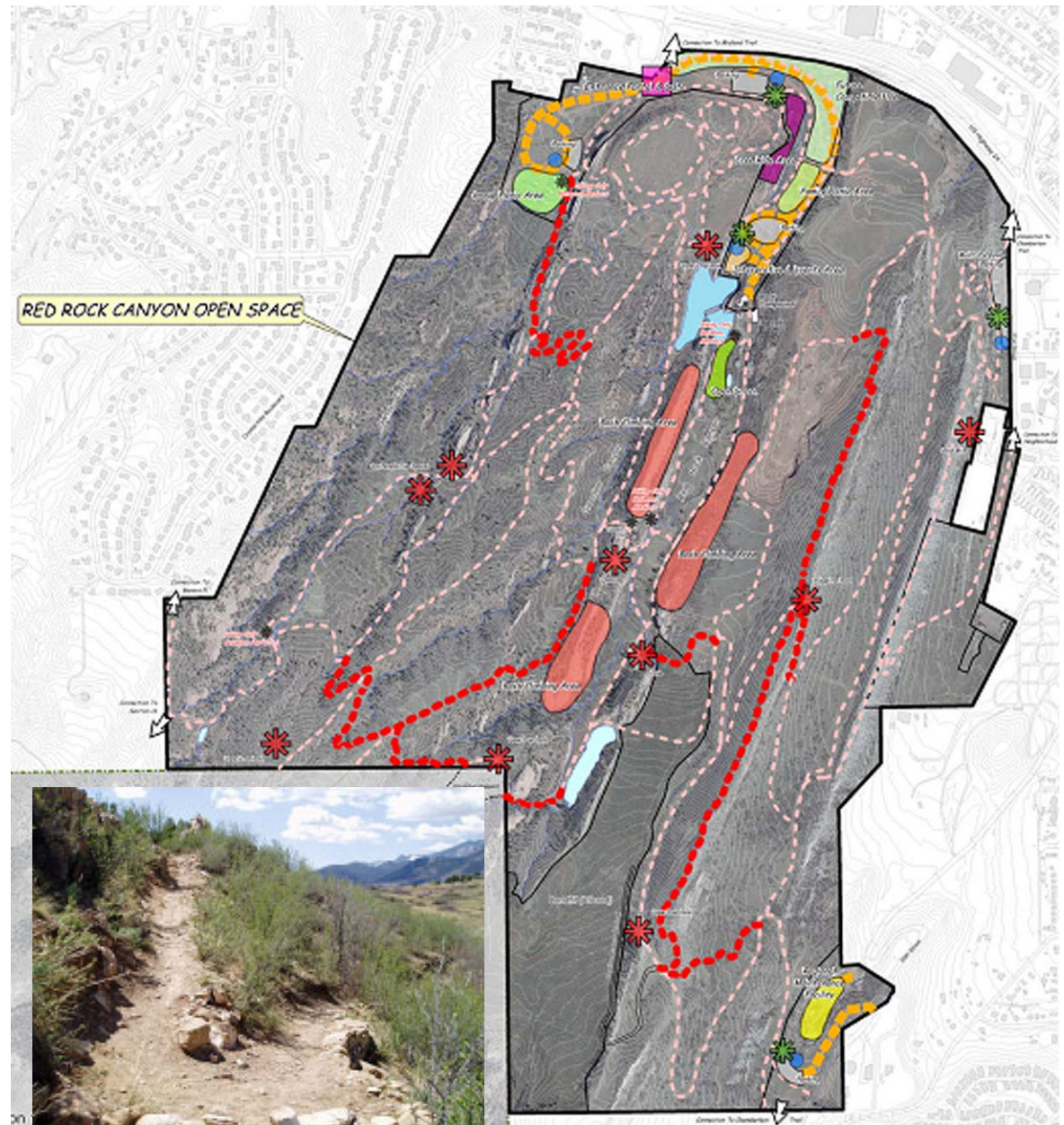
Slopes up to 20%

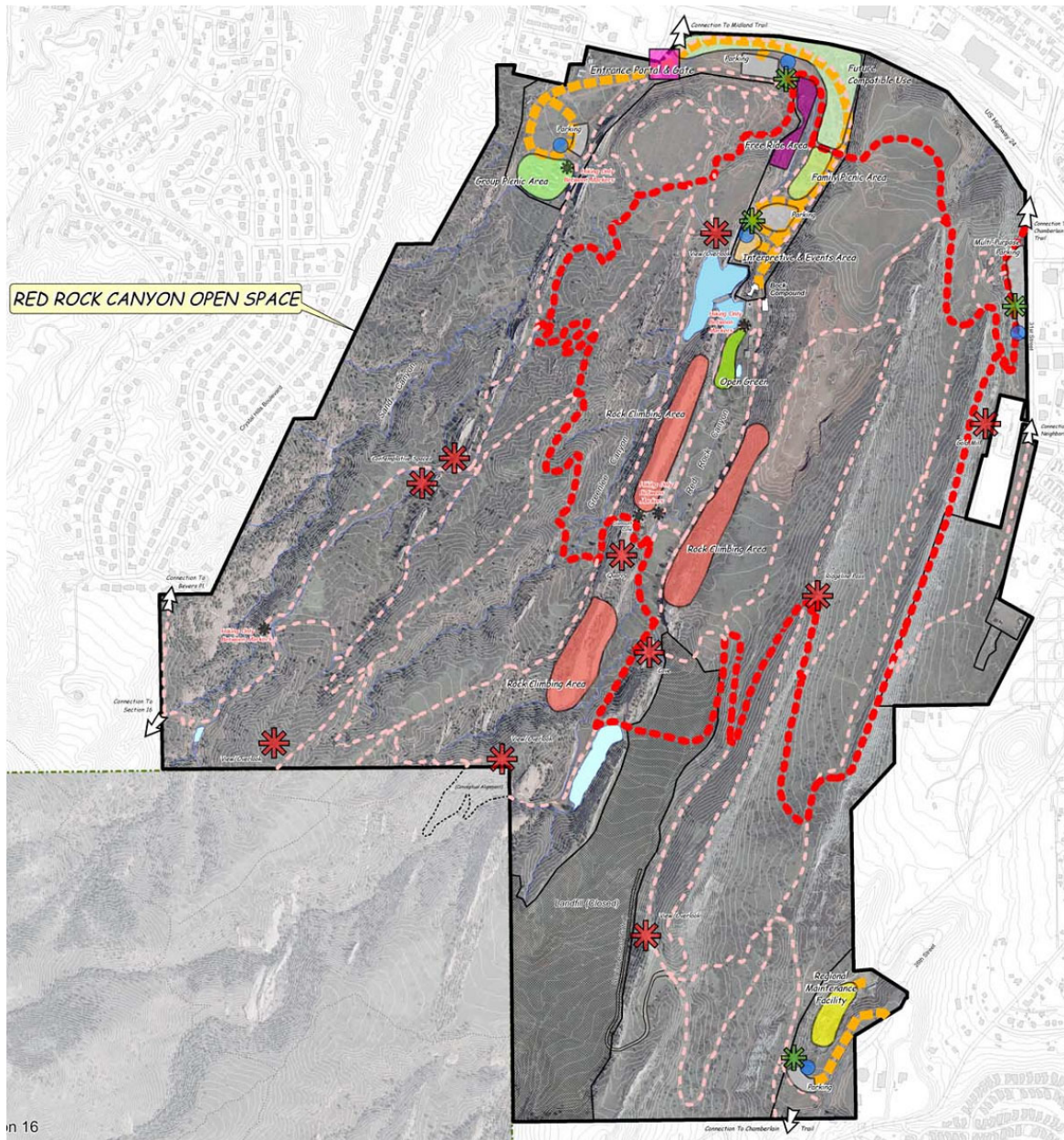
Minimum Width 12"

Rough Surface – Frequent Obstacles

Difficult Trails

Difficult trails provide a more challenging experience, including steeper grades, rough surfaces, and narrow widths. They may contain frequent switchbacks.





Red Rock Canyon Geology Theme Trail

(4.63 Miles)

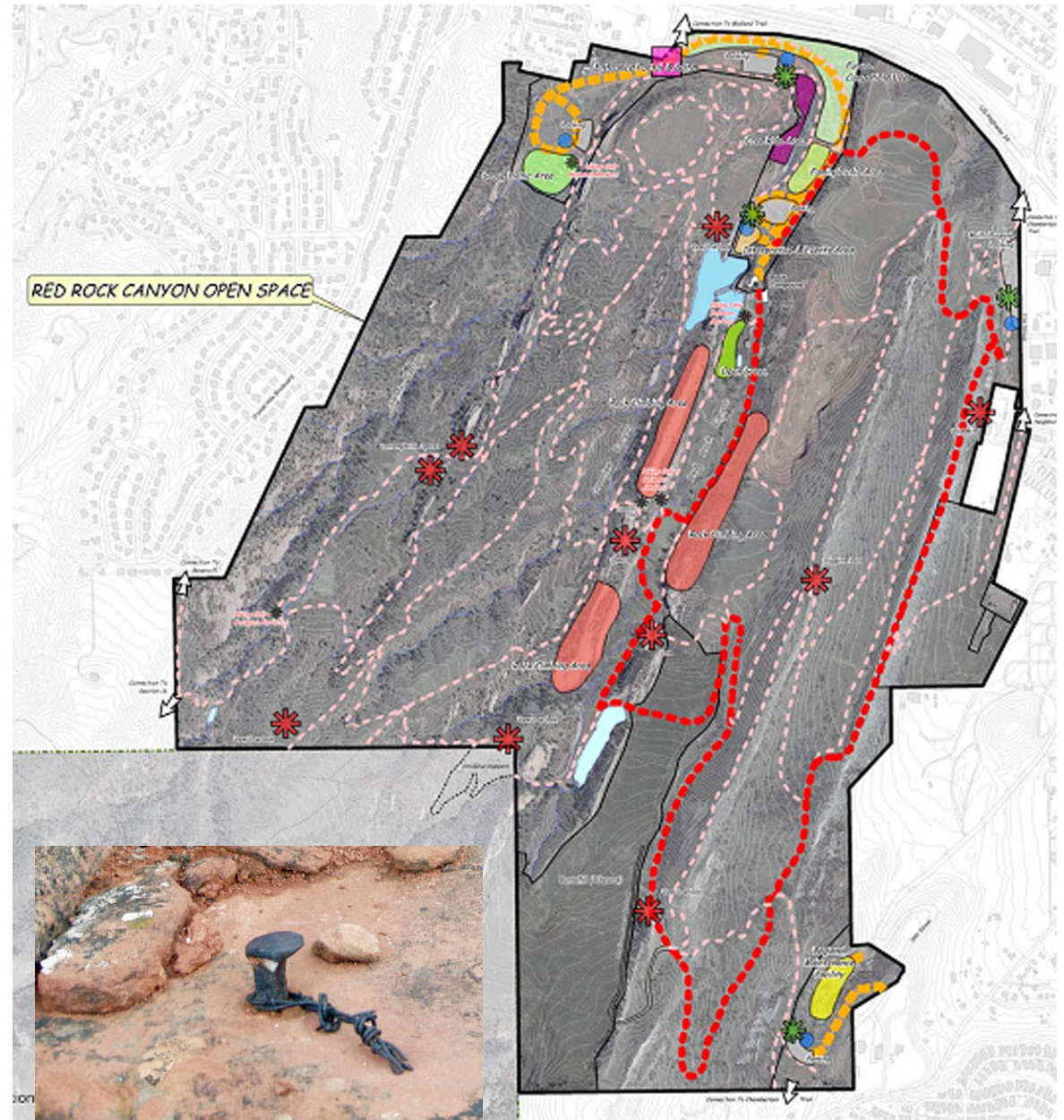
Thematic Classifications

Thematic classifications include Geology, History, Contemplative, and Off-Leash Dog categories. For each theme, a loop trail was designated (the Contemplative trail is an out-and-back circuit), with the idea that the loop for that theme would take visitors on a journey through the site to explore the theme or accommodate a specific activity. Interpretive signs, direct observation, and other techniques will be used to convey information to the visitor, who can complete the loop and return to the starting point. The loops cross and interlock so that many different combinations are possible that allow a visitor to return to a starting point without the need to backtrack.

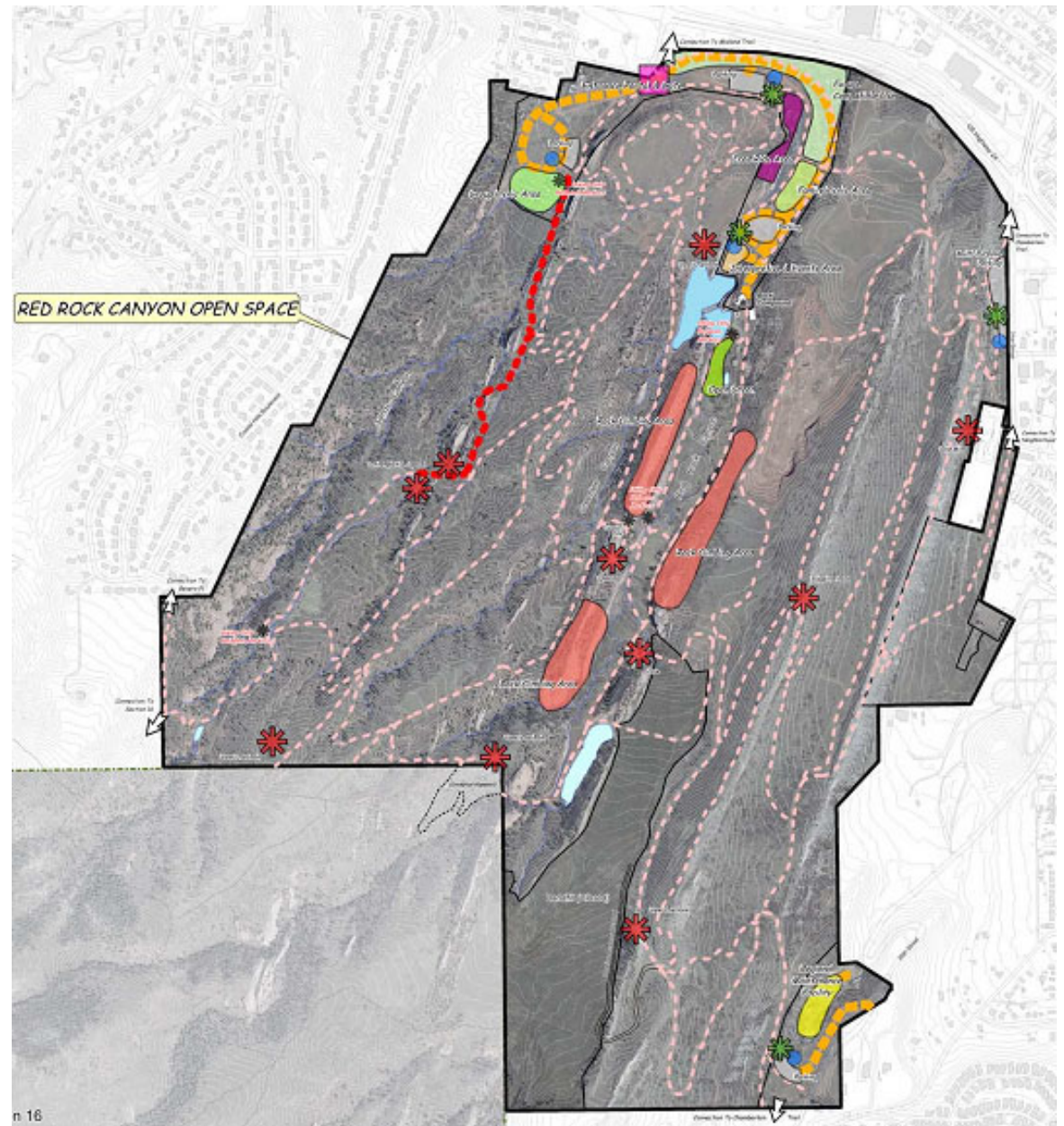
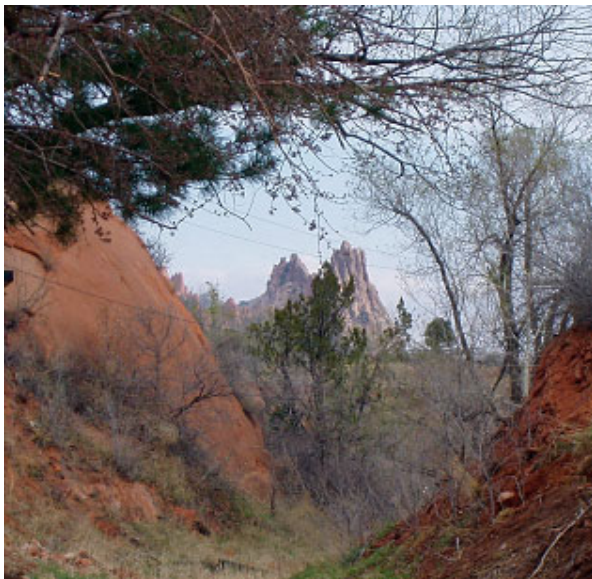


Red Rock Canyon History Theme Trail

(3.72 Miles)



(.56 Miles)



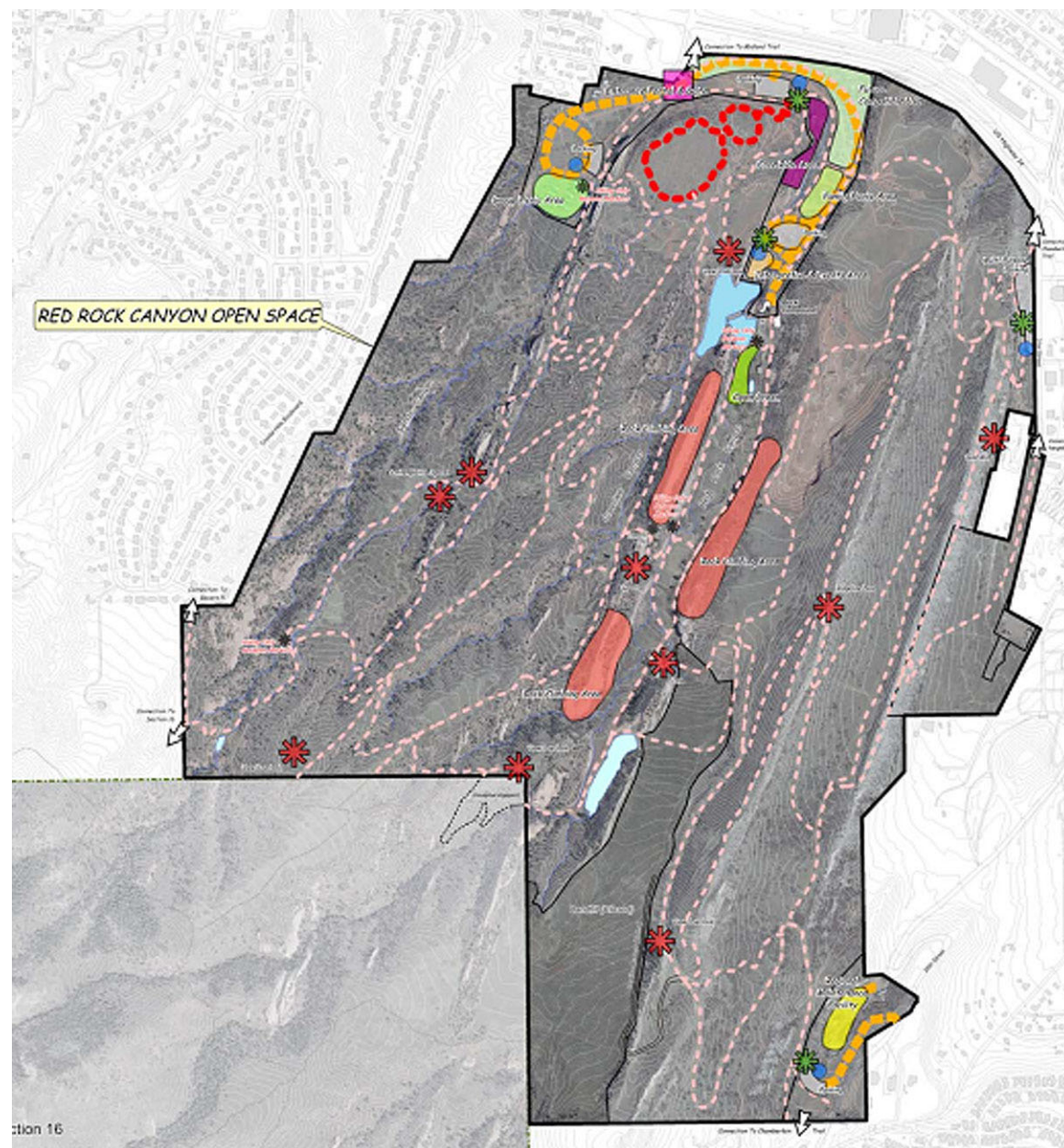
Red Rock Canyon

Off-Leash Dog Trails

(.63 Miles)

Dog off-leash Area:

This area is intended to provide open space users a place where their dogs are allowed off-leash. Dogs must remain on leash in all other places within the open space. The dog off-leash area shall be comprised of two trail loops. Adequate fencing and signage to define the boundaries of the dog off-leash area shall be provided. Dog waste disposal stations shall be provided at key locations throughout the area. Specific rules and regulations requiring appropriate behavior for pets and their owners shall be posted. The City shall endeavor to partner with local pet owner groups to assist in routine cleanup of dog waste.



Trailheads

Through the public master plan process, the need for multiple trailheads was identified. Three separate trailhead areas are included in the Master Plan: Main Entrance and Primary Trailhead Access at High Street, and Secondary Trailhead Access at 31st Street, and at 26th Street.

Trailhead Design Intent

All trailhead areas are to be implemented according to environmentally friendly design principles. Parking areas are to be paved with an all weather surface and striped to maximize parking lot efficiency while minimizing parking lot size. Design principles include the harvesting of storm water runoff and native landscape plantings that integrating the trailhead parking areas into the surrounding open space context. All parking areas will be designed to encourage pedestrian and bicycle movements. Each trailhead shall be designed to provide ADA access to the master planned trail network.

High Street (Hwy 24) Trailhead and Main Entrance:

Primary Anticipated Users: General open space users, including tourists. This trailhead will serve as the primary parking area for trail users, dog-off leash area, free-ride area, rock climbers and family picnic areas. This trailhead is also anticipated to be used by the occasional tour group or large groups.

Parking Lot Criteria: The parking lot shall include approximately 100 parking spaces. The lot will also provide a limited number of parking spaces to accommodate RV's and Buses.

Amenities: The trailhead shall provide public restrooms or port-a-let facilities. Trail way-finding signage, seating areas, and trash receptacles shall also be provided.

31st Street Trailhead:

Primary Anticipated Users: Equestrians and local open space users. This trailhead will serve as the primary parking area for vehicles towing horse trailers.

Parking Lot Criteria: The parking lot shall include approximately 20 spaces. In addition, the parking lot shall include approximately 5 spaces for horse trailer parking.

Amenities: The trailhead shall provide public restrooms or port-a-let facilities. Trail way-finding signage, hitching post and equestrian staging area, and trash receptacles shall also be provided.

26st Street Trailhead:

Primary Anticipated Users: Local open space users.

Parking Lot Criteria: The parking lot shall include approximately 30 spaces.

Amenities: The trailhead shall provide public restroom or port-a-let facilities. Trail way-finding signage and trash receptacles shall also be provided.



Site Development Areas

Group Picnic Area:

The master planned group picnic area shall provide opportunities for medium to large group gatherings. The group picnic pavilions shall be designed to provide for flexibility in programming. As indicated on the master plan map, the group picnic area is to be located at the base of Sand Canyon. This area will be available on a reservation and fee basis only. At all other times, this area is to remain gated and closed to vehicular access. The area shall be implemented according to environmentally friendly design principles. The facility shall be designed with materials and proportions that blend into the surrounding context of Sand Canyon. Design principles include the harvesting of storm water runoff, the use of natural materials, and use of the native landscape plantings.

Design Criteria:

Group Picnic Pavilion(s): The Group Picnic Area shall contain one cluster of picnic pavilions. (Maximum of three pavilions). Each pavilion shall provide seating for a capacity of 75 persons. The maximum capacity of all three pavilions shall be 225 persons. The group picnic area shall be designed to accommodate users with a variety of physical abilities.

Parking and vehicular access: Paved parking shall be provided for approximately 75 spaces. Additionally, an unpaved overflow parking area shall provide capacity for approximately 100 additional vehicles. Vehicular access shall be limited to the parking area and entry drive.

Pedestrian Access: The Group Picnic Area shall be integrated with the master planned trail system. Trail way-finding signage will be provided.

Amenities: Restroom or port-a-let facilities and adequate trash receptacles shall be provided in close proximity to the pavilions. Opportunities for group activities such as sand volleyball, and horseshoes shall be considered. No grills shall be provided.

Family Picnic Area:

The family picnic area shall be located within Red Rock Canyon, north of the Bock Compound area. This picnic area shall contain ten to fifteen picnic tables located on concrete picnic pads. Several of these picnic pads shall accommodate more than one picnic table to meet the needs of large families or small groups. The picnic area shall be accessible to users with a variety of physical

abilities. Park shall be located in close proximity to the picnic tables to facilitate hand carrying of picnic supplies. The family picnic area shall be designed to accommodate users with a variety of physical abilities.

Free-Ride Area:

This area is intended to provide opportunities for challenging technical mountain bike riding. The area shall be developed using the International Mountain Bike Association Free Ride Design Guidelines as a conceptual design guideline. These guidelines include safety measures and design guidelines to create challenges for a variety of skill levels. The trail challenges shall consist of both man-made and natural features. The City shall endeavor to partner with the local mountain bike community in the design, funding, and implementation of this area.

Interpretive and Events Area:

The proposed interpretive and events area, located north of the existing lower pond, is intended to provide a venue for presenting information about the Red Rock Canyon Open Space. During the master plan process, several opportunities for interpretation were discussed including a pedestrian plaza



containing an open-air interpretive display, a small interpretive center, and a visitor overlook. At the time of this master plan process, details and design criteria remain undefined due to funding constraints and limited staffing resources. The interpretive and events area shall be designed to accommodate users with a variety of physical abilities.

The Open Green:

This area will be maintained as an open meadow to be used on occasion as an informal gathering space. Use of this area for group activities shall be limited to special events requiring a special use permit. No permanent structures shall be constructed in The Open Green.

Highway 24 Frontage / Future Compatible Use Area:

During the Public Master Plan Process it was recognized that the area along Hwy 24 provided opportunity and flexibility for future uses that are compatible with the overriding goals of the Red Rock Canyon Open Space. Several possible uses were presented during the master plan process including a U.S. Forest Service center / office, visitor center,

ball fields, botanical garden, or recreation center. Decisions regarding specific future use(s) were not made as part of the Red Rock Canyon Master Plan. A separate public process and Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Advisory Board approval will accompany future land use decisions for this area.

Regional Maintenance Facility:

The proposed open space maintenance facility shall be located along 26th Street. This facility shall consist of maintenance building(s) and small yard for equipment and storage. This facility shall be designed according to environmentally friendly design principles appropriate to the open space context, and will be located to minimize visual impacts on the open space. The exterior of the facility shall make use of natural earth-tones and incorporate natural materials fit with the open space context. Native landscape plantings shall be used to provide a visual buffer from 26th Street.



Materials & Theme

The dominant image of Red Rock Canyon is one of dramatic rock outcrops jutting out of the ground. Although the stone occurs in multiple colors throughout the site, the most striking and memorable is the salmon pink sandstone that forms large, smooth ridges, narrow fins, and rugged spires. This material weathers to form soils of the same color that serve as the canvas upon which plants in a variety of greens, grays, and earth tones are painted across the site. Dark green pines and scrub oaks provide a complementary color scheme to the red hues of the rocks, and sage-colored grasses and forbes highlight the spaces in between the trees in the summer. In the winter grays, tans, and golds take over, accented by the deep green pines and junipers.

A smoothness and uniformity that is not normally expected in nature is found here in the stone faces of the rocks. This smoothness is reinforced in the giant cut faces of the quarries and the still surface of the ponds, as well as the smooth expanse of lawn south of the Bock House. The Bock House plays upon these qualities with its clean lines and large panes of smooth glass.

At Red Rock Canyon, natural elements seem to reach toward the vertical. The rocks are tilted almost straight up, accented by ascending junipers, cottonwoods, pines, and spruces. Human elements seem to contrast with this by emphasizing the horizontal, as in the roofs of the Bock Compound structures, and the surface of the man-made ponds. Even though there is a wealthy heritage of turn-of-the-(20th) century habitation of the site from which Victorian and Industrial-Age influences could be drawn, there are virtually no remnants of such structures today. The existing structures at Red Rock Canyon reflect a mid-20th century modernist style that is unique within this natural setting. It also reflects a period during which Colorado Springs became internationally known for the modern style reflected in places such as the Air Force Academy and the Fine Arts Center. This suggests a style for new features in the open space that borrows from the combination of natural features and modernist style.

Recent human activities on this site have tended to level the vertical nature found here by grading in roads, filling in valleys, and

terracing the land. This combination of natural features that ascend vertically and man-made features that contrast horizontally offers a basis for forming new features within the park. Signs, structures, and other features within the park can be designed to reflect a combination of vertical “natural” elements and horizontal introduced “man-made” ones. The materials and colors of these forms can also draw upon the natural and man-made materials found there, such as stone and metal. The following sections provide examples and suggestions of how this might be represented.



Park Entry

The concept for the entrance feature to the park plays upon the name of the place and the features within it to literally create a “Red Rock Canyon” through which one enters. This would consist of very large, multiple slabs of red sandstone (up to 20 feet wide by 10 feet or higher) placed on both sides of the entrance. These slabs would be placed nearly vertical, with a pitch similar to the angle at which nearby rock outcrops emerge from the ground. These slabs should also parallel the general north-south direction of the natural formations, even if the road between them enters at a different angle. The name of the park and other symbols or graphics could be sandblasted into the rocks. The lettering style should reflect a 20th Century modern look, such as **RED ROCK CANYON** (Twentieth Century MT Condensed).

Extending horizontally away from these upturned slabs would be walls or fences made of vertical slabs of sandstone or laid-up walls of stone similar to those found at the Bock Compound. These walls could serve as retaining walls filled with species of plants representing those found within the site.

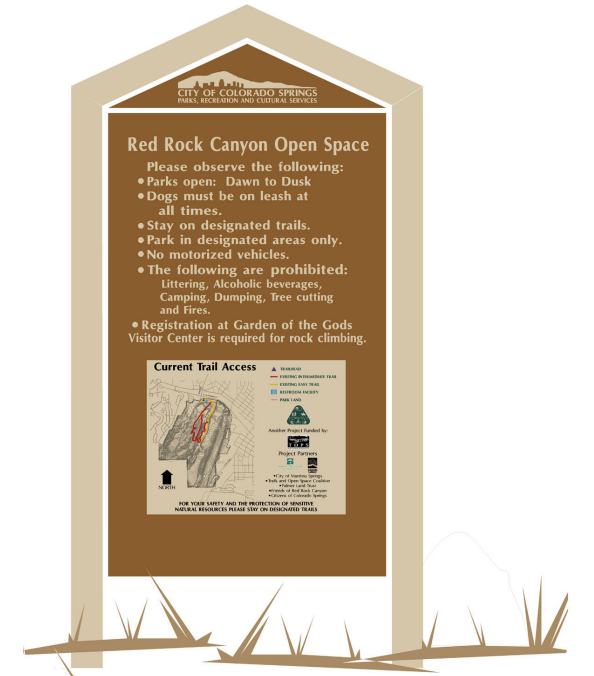
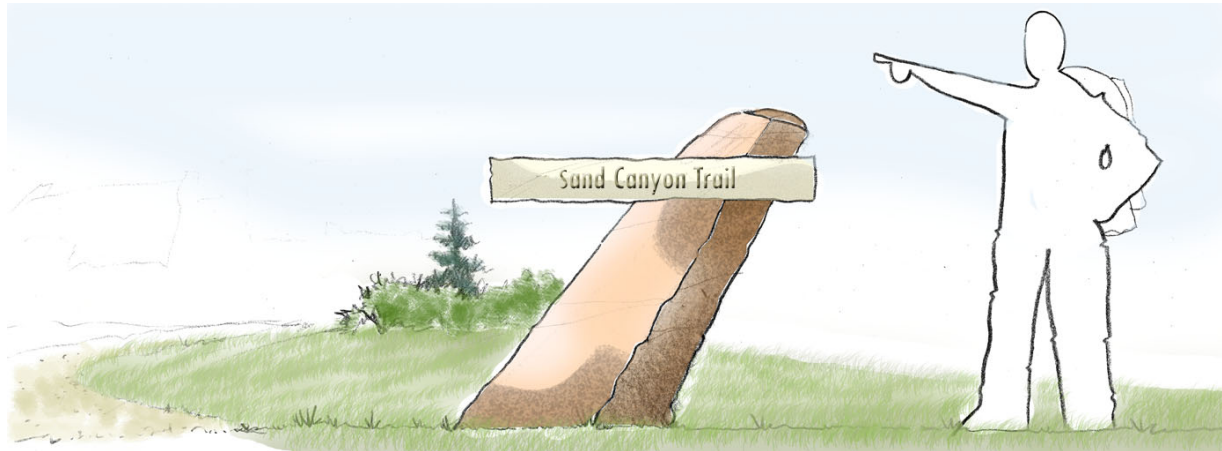
The median between lanes at the entry should represent the canyons found at the site, and as such should be landscaped with riparian shrubs found along the canyon bottoms, which could include cottonwood or aspen trees.

A gate will be required to control access to the site. This should be non-descript metal swing-gates designed to swing unobtrusively away to the sides behind the entrance feature or slide behind a rock wall.



Markers & Signage

These are miniature versions of the main entrance feature, designed with naturalistic vertical components and more refined horizontal pieces of stone or metal. Cut sandstone could also be used for the horizontal pieces.

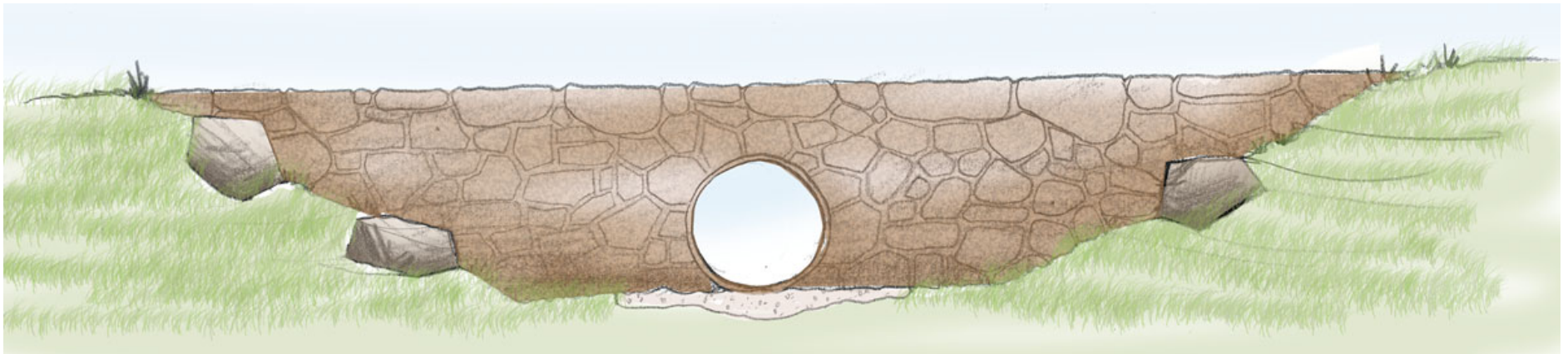
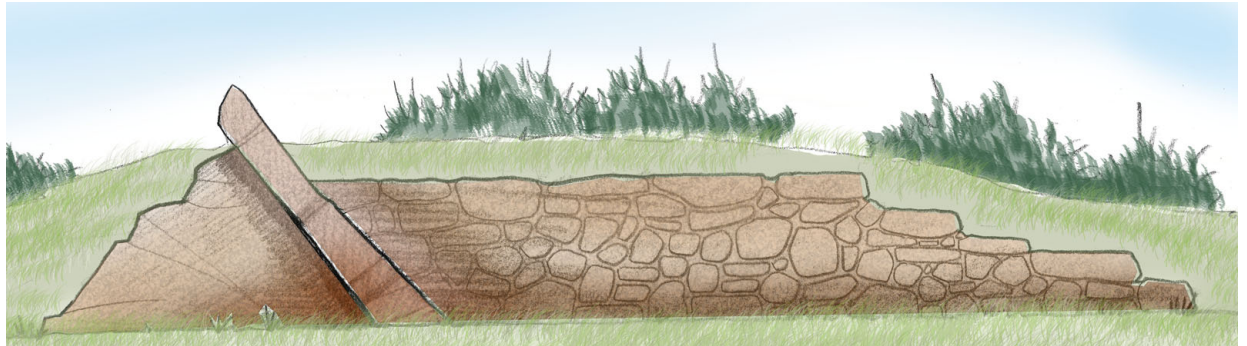


Walls & Culverts

Walls will be needed in areas of steep slope and road cuts, or where erosion problems may occur. Walls should be similar to those found at the Bock Compound, consisting of mortared pieces of random-sized sandstone.

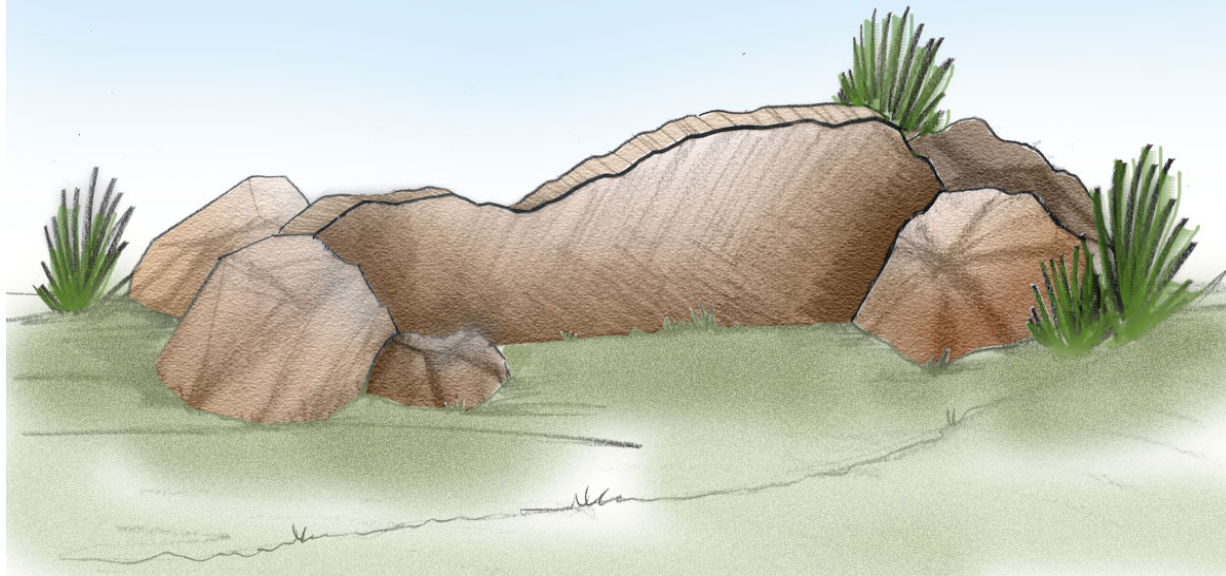
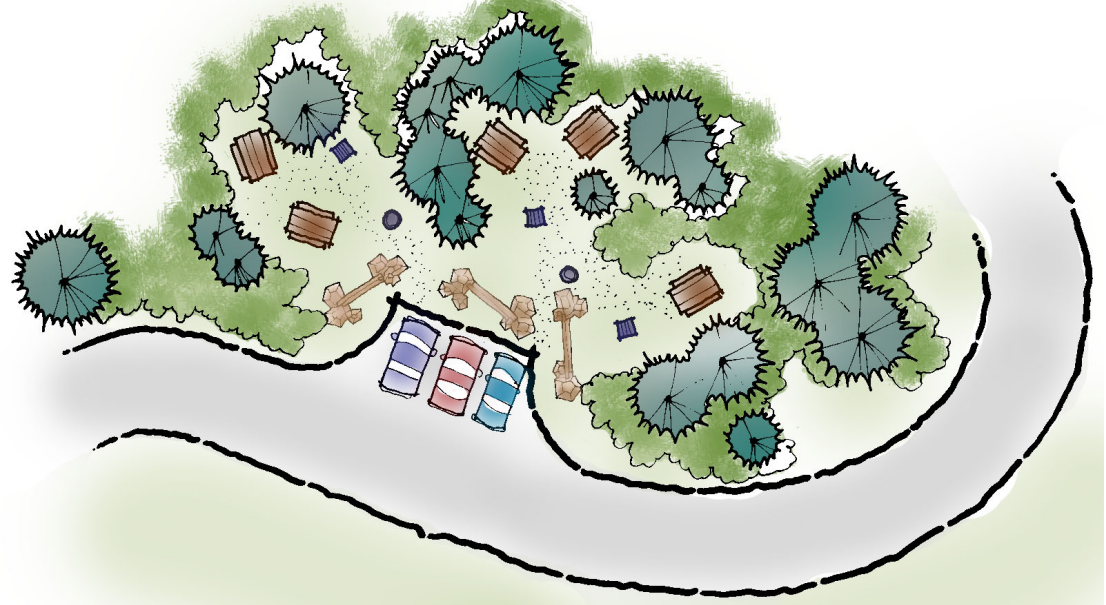
Walls may terminate at end/slab boulders or in a stepped-down form.

Culvert crossing will have an endwall of variable sized sandstone. The endwalls may terminate into grade. Pre-fabricated metal or concrete end sections should not be used on culverts, except in situations where they will not be visible to the visiting public.



Picnic & Parking Areas

Picnic sites for individual “family” picnics should be easily accessible from park roads. These may be single or grouped around a few parking spaces.



Barriers should be used to control traffic and keep automobiles restricted to appropriate parking spaces. These barriers should be constructed of stone as shown in the illustrations. Barriers should be spaced frequently and close enough together to form an effective barrier to cars yet allow pedestrians to pass through.

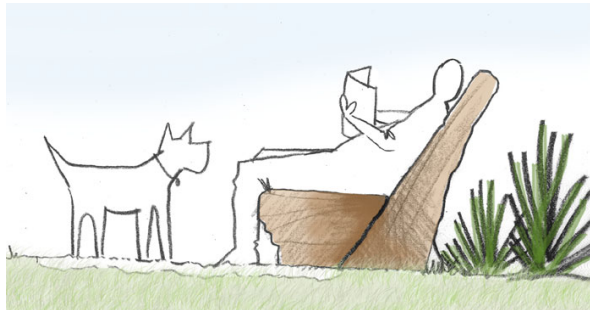


Benches and Furnishings

Informal park seating may consist of local quarried block stone. The stone may be arranged to represent the varying forms of the open space, with vertical backrests, inset slabs and boulders, or simple blocks, with or without a top set stone.

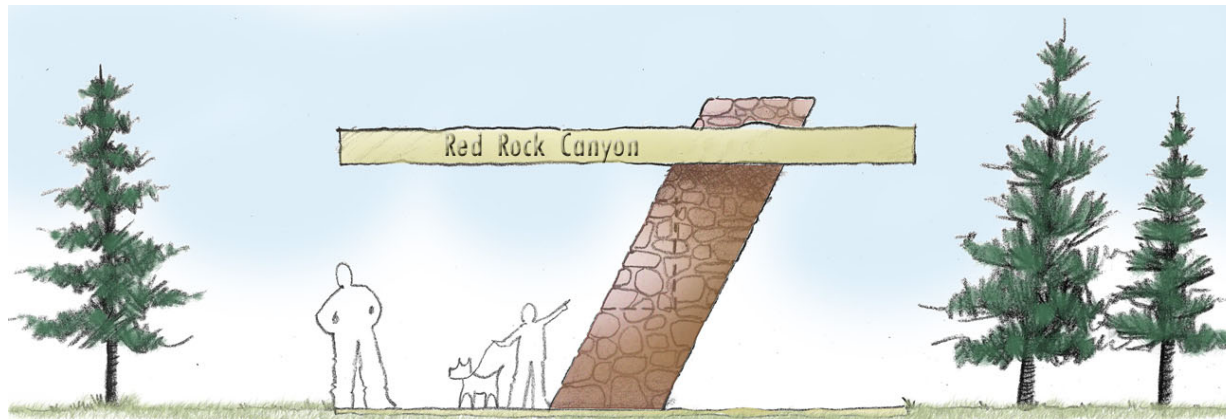
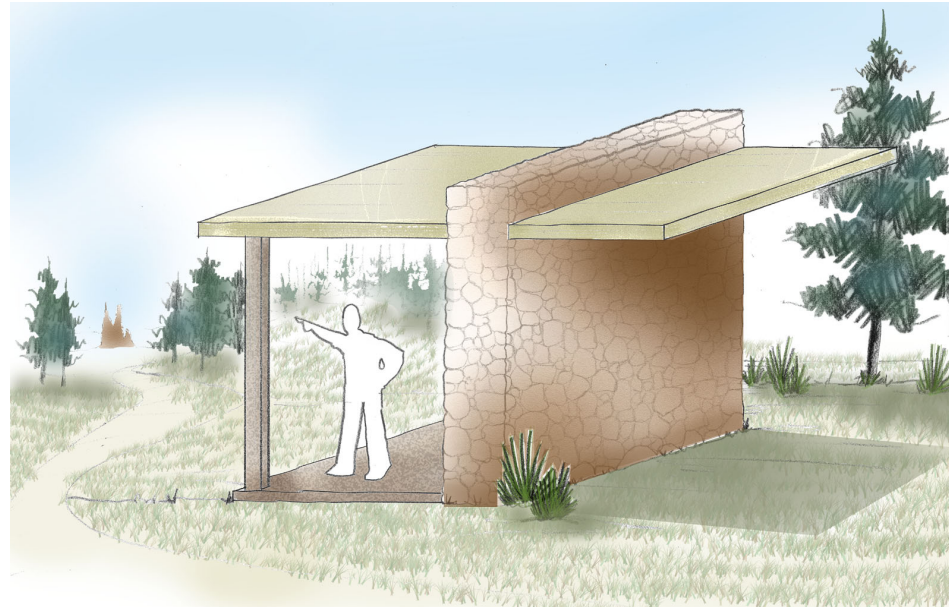
Site furnishings will include picnic tables, trash receptacles, bike racks, and other objects. Whenever possible, these should incorporate stone into the design. However, it will not be feasible to do this in all instances. These features can be constructed of metal, painted to match the metal elements of the site structures.

Forest green and sage green may be used as accent colors, representing the vegetation on the site, and serving as a complement to the red hues found in the sandstone. However, these colors should be used consistently, meaning that all of the Forest Greens should be the same color, as should all of the sage greens. “Near matches” of these colors should not be used.



Structures

Numerous possibilities exist to create kiosks, shade shelters, and pavilions that are inspired by the lines and materials of the Bock House. The basis for the design should include vertical elements that suggest of the rocks and other natural vertical features within the site, and horizontal elements that suggest the man-made aspects of Red Rock Canyon. The use of sandstone, whether in large slabs or laid up in walls, is encouraged. Horizontal elements should be metal, preferable in an earth-tone rust color.



Plant Materials

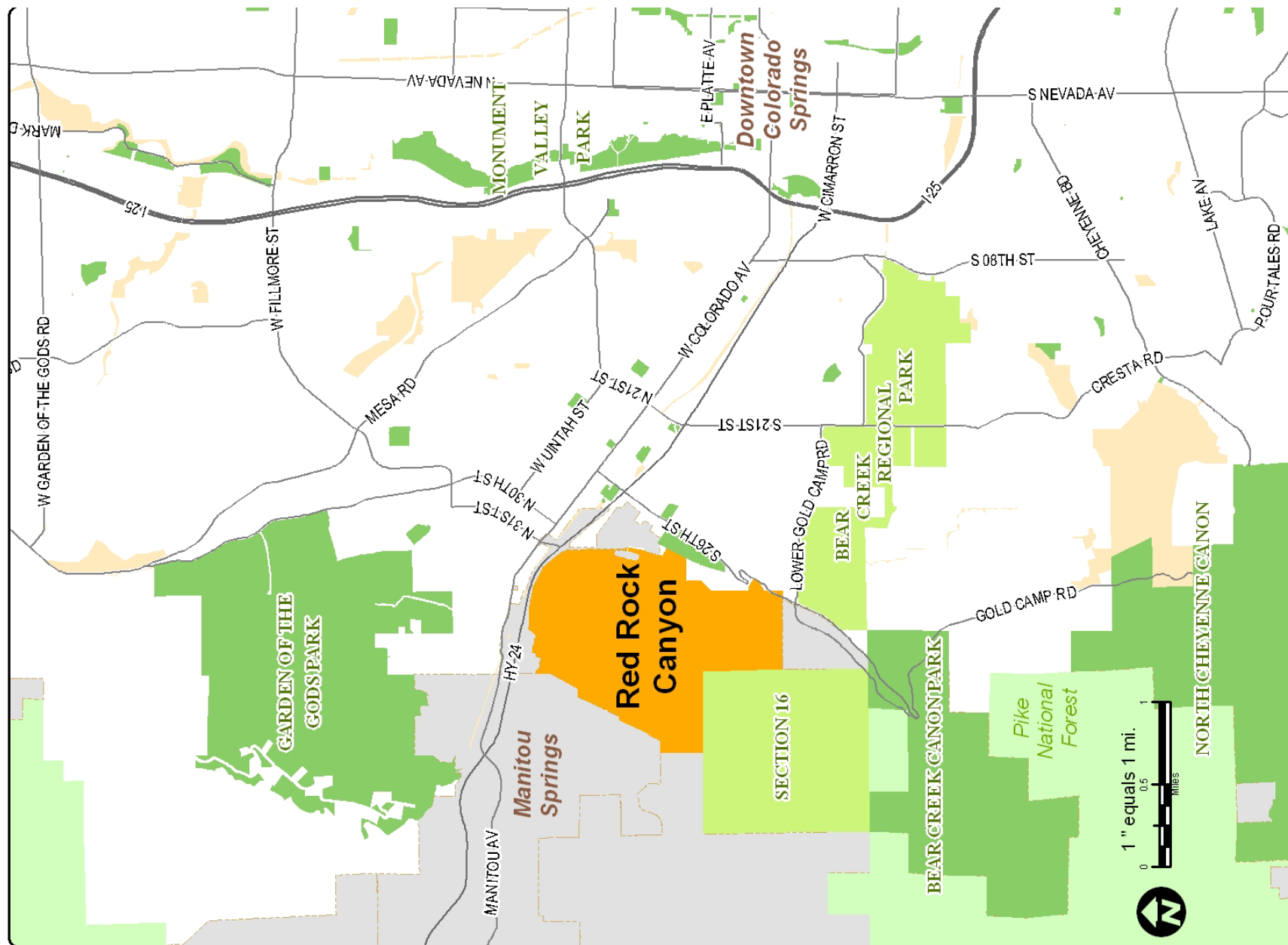
In most cases, only plants that are native to Red Rock Canyon Open Space should be used in revegetation and landscaping of the site. Exceptions may occur near the Bock Compound, where historic precedent would allow a limited number of imported species if needed to replace existing ones.

Plants should be used to replicate existing natural conditions, although an irrigation system may be needed to assure success in heavy-use areas such as parking lots and picnic grounds. This means that plants normally found in the canyon bottoms should be used for the parking and picnic areas in the lower end of Red Rock Canyon. Cottonwoods, Three-leaf Sumac, and Chokecherry are examples of these species.

Upland areas, such as the Overlook, the Free-Riding Area, and the parking lots along the eastern edges of the site should be planted with species normally found in those locations, such as Gambel Oak, Mountain Mahogany, and mixed grasses. Trees such as Ponderosa Pine, Pinyon Pine, One-seed Juniper, and Douglas Fir should be used only in locations where they would be naturally found, and not in open areas where grasslands predominate.

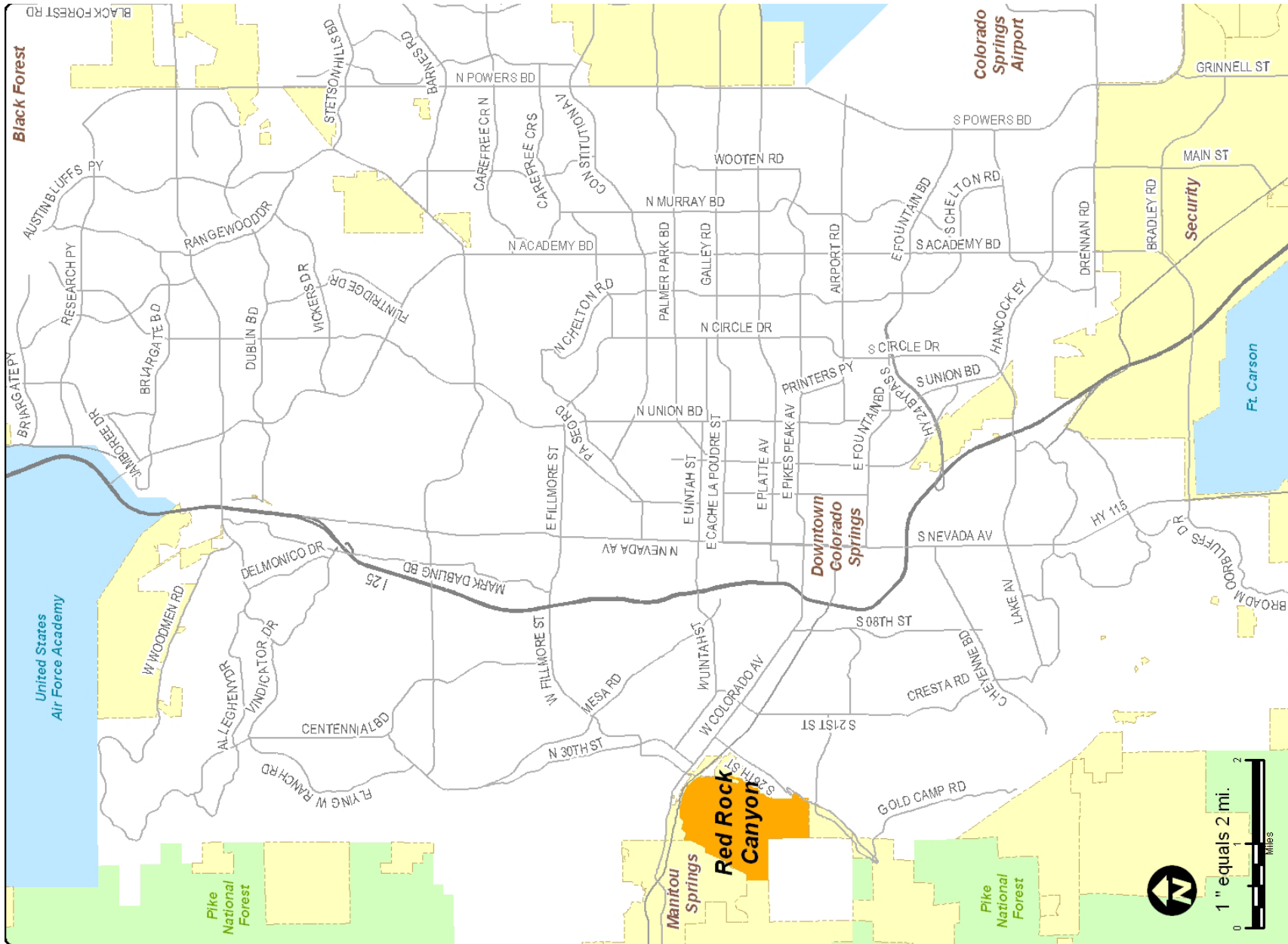
A priority should be placed on improving the diversity of vegetation on the reclaimed gravel mines in the northeast quadrant of the site. Planting should be done here to restore a more natural condition and provide habitat for wildlife.





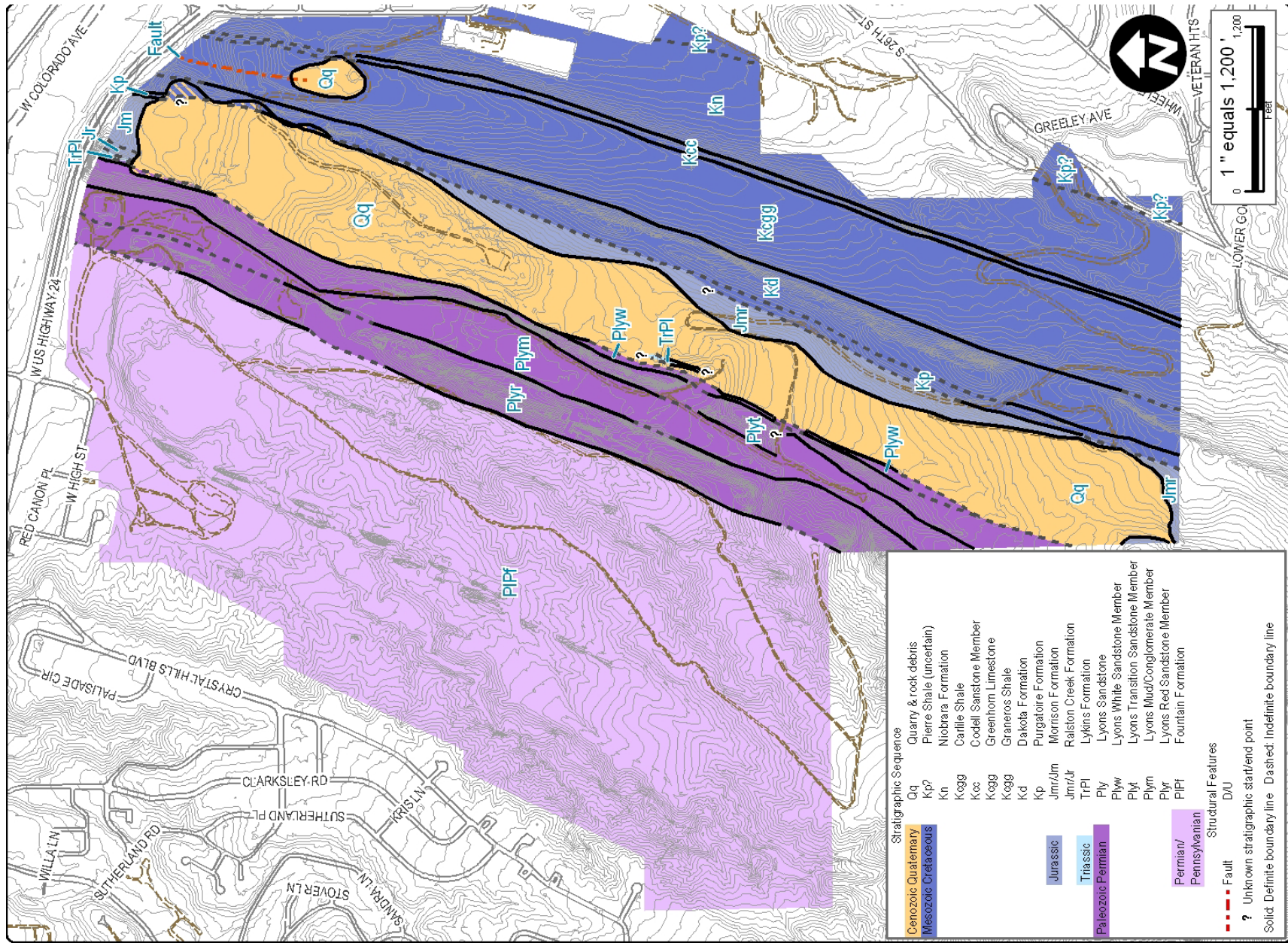
Local Setting Map



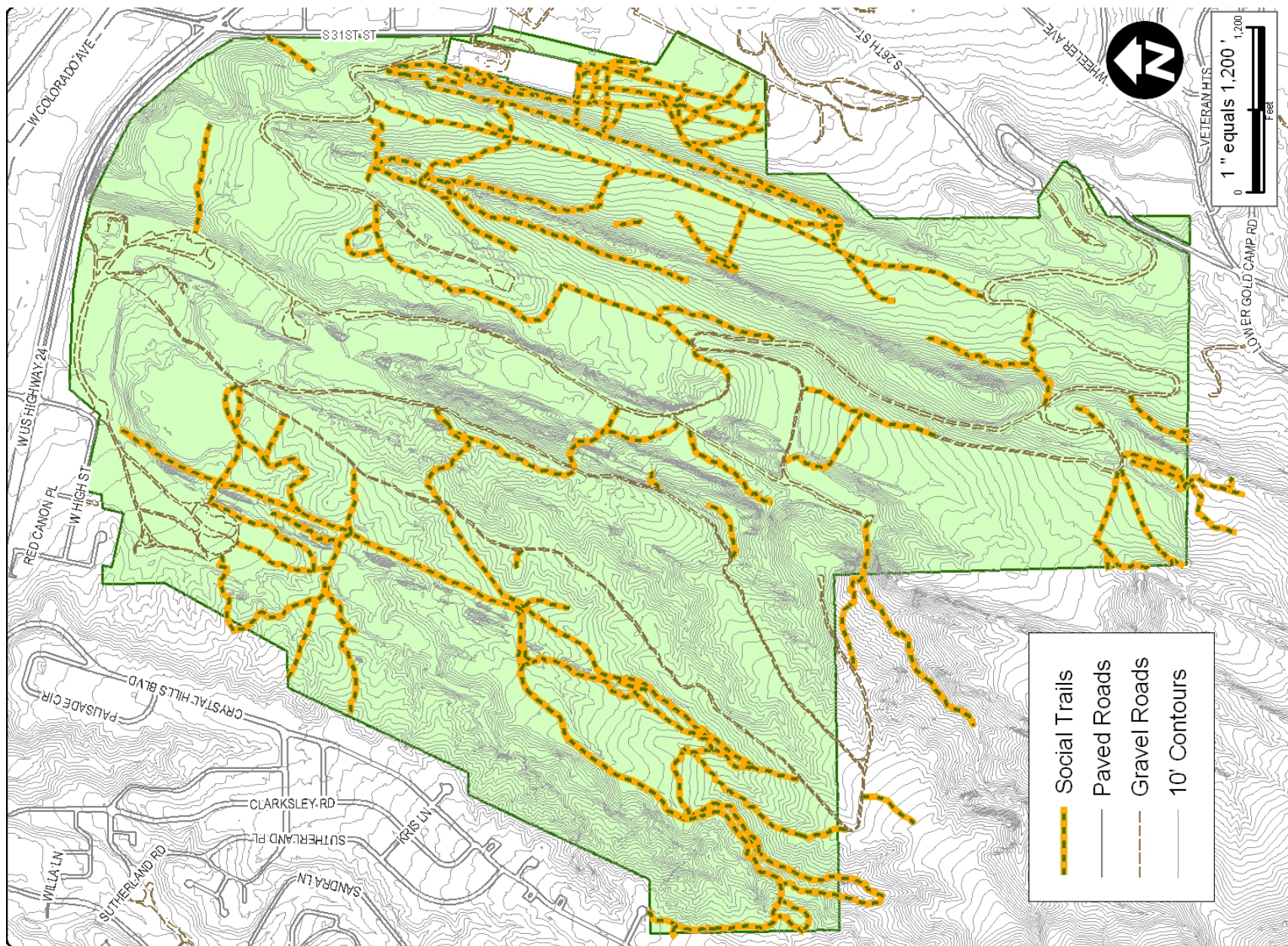


Regional Setting Map



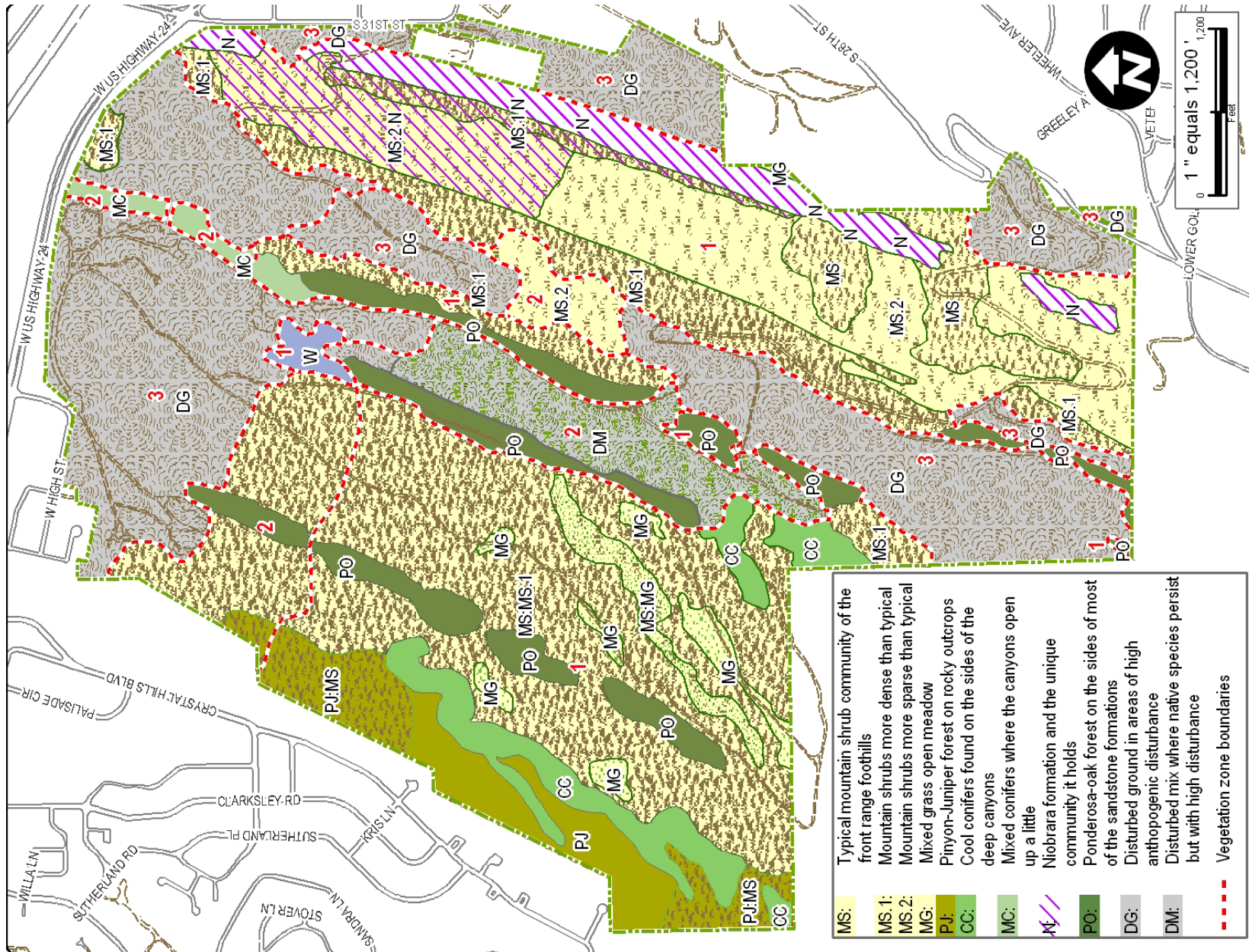


Geology Map

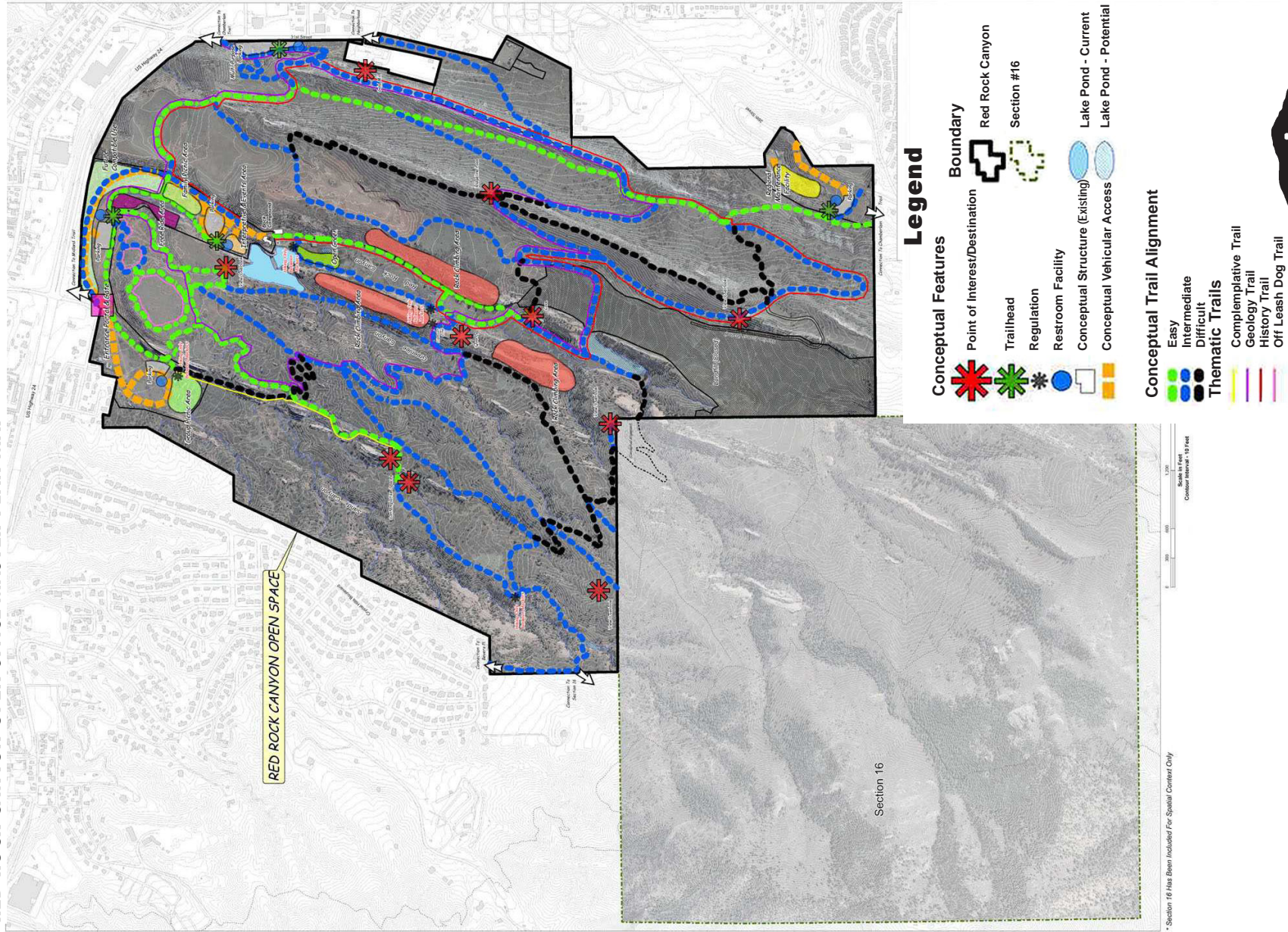


Social Trails Map





RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN MAP



Appendix B: Dogs in Red Rock Canyon

Please pick up after your pup!

Dog owners should be aware that City Code requires all dogs be on a leash while in city parks and on city trails. The Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department does realize that dogs enjoy having areas where they can run and “burn off some steam,” so we offer several off-leash areas. Please keep in mind that your dog must still be kept under control in off-leash areas. There is a planned off-leash area in Red Rock Canyon Open Space that will be added once complete.

Also, pet owners are asked to please clean up after their pet. All parks are equipped with “doggie-bag” dispensers and trash cans. Thanks for your assistance in keeping our parks clean and safe for all park patrons!

Appendix C: Rock Climbing Regulations

Technical Rock Climbing Regulations and Guidelines

The towering rock formations in the Colorado Springs area have been a climbing mecca for decades. Each year, over 2,500 technical climbers receive a **free** annual permit to ascend sandstone and conglomerate rocks that were formed 240 and 300 million years ago. Technical climbing on these ancient rock formations is managed to help protect the resource while providing for the enjoyment and challenge of the sport. Technical climbing is permitted in the Garden of the Gods, Red Rock Canyon Open Space, Cheyenne Canon, and Ute Valley Park.

Climbing is an inherently dangerous activity. Technical climbing is at your own risk. The City of Colorado Springs does not install, inspect, nor maintain the fixed protection devices. Your safety is your own responsibility.

Rock Climbing is governed by City Code 9.9.140 as well as administrative regulations and guidelines promulgated by the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director.

Section 1 – General Technical Climbing

- 1. Every technical climber must register annually in person at the Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, 1805 North 30th Street, Colorado Springs, CO, 80904. 719-219-0108.**
- 2. Rock Scrambling is prohibited.**
 - Rock Scrambling is defined as climbing on a rock formation more than ten feet above its base without using proper equipment.
- 3. Technical Climbing is permitted.**
 - Technical climbing is defined as climbing on a rock formation in parties of two or more, using proper equipment, which shall, as a minimum, consist of:



- A rope specifically designed for climbing which meets or exceeds the current minimum standards of the Union International Alpinist Association (UIAA).
- Carabiners to clip to the fixed protection pins (piton, expansion bolt, or eye bolt previously placed in the rock) and/or an assortment of removable chocks or camming devices to adequately protect the leader's ascent and to allow the climb to be safely seconded.

4. Sport Rappelling is prohibited.

- Sport Rappelling is defined as hiking or walking to the top of or edge of any rock formation or structure and rappelling downward. Sport Rappelling is only allowed in Cheyenne Canon Park. Rappelling in the other parks shall only be performed in conjunction with ascents by technical climbers.

5. Bouldering is permitted except on Sentinel Rock, Red and White Twin Spires, Signature Rock, and on the south face of North Gateway Rock in the Garden of the Gods.

- Bouldering is defined as climbing or traversing on smaller rocks or at the base of a larger rock formation to a maximum or height of ten feet (10') above the base of the rock.
- 6. Refrain from placing additional permanent protection (pitons, expansion bolts, etc.) in the rock unless absolutely necessary for safety reasons.**
- 7. The use of chalk (calcium carbonate) in conjunction with technical climbing and bouldering is prohibited. A chalk substitute that does not discolor the rock may be used.**
- 8. Climbing near raptor nesting sites is prohibited. Seasonal clusters of routes near nesting sties will be posted at the trailhead leading to the climb.**
- 9. Permanent slings may be left only at the belay points where necessary for safety reasons. Any webbing left on**

the rock surface must match the color of the rock.

Section 2 – Guidelines for Voluntary Compliance

1. Climbers should schedule and conduct their climbs during the daylight hours. Though it is recognized that some climbs may not end until after nightfall due to unexpected difficulties, the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department strongly discourages climbers from deliberately planning and executing night climbs.
2. Although there are not age limitations for rock climbing, all climbers including children must register. Minors are strongly encouraged to be accompanied by a registers adult rock climber.
3. Use approved established trails to access technical climbs.
4. Temporary slings may be left in the event a climber must lower off a rout unexpectedly due to weather or failure to reach an established ascent anchor. The subsequent removal of temporary



slings in the responsibility of all technical climbers.

5. Climbing after rain, snow or freezing temperatures may unnaturally hasten the deterioration of rock surfaces. Climbers are asked to refrain from climbing on any formation that appears visually wet or in a frosted condition.

RULES FOR TECHNICAL CLIMBING AT RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE

1. Technical climbing at Red Rock Canyon Open Space is limited to the main section of Red Rock Canyon that leads south from the lake. No technical climbing is permitted in the historic quarry. **TECHNICAL CLIMBING IS NOT PERMITTED IN OTHER AREAS OF RRCOS.**
2. All of the rules entitled “Garden of the Gods Technical Rock Climbing Regulations and Guidelines” apply to Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

3. Red Rock Canyon Open Space is a new sandstone climbing area with approximately 80 established routes. Climbers shall utilize only these established routes to minimize the risks of environmental damage. As a new sandstone climbing area, climbers should keep in mind that in addition to the typical climbing risks, there will be a greater-than-normal risk of holds breaking off, even on established routes. Use of a climbing helmet by both the climber and the belayer is recommended.
4. Established routes are set up with bolted rappel and lowering anchors below the cliff tops. Climbers must not leave colored slings on the walls except in case of an emergency.

Any new route development at Red Rock Canyon Open Space is a managed process. **THEREFORE, NO NEW FIXED PROTECTION IS TO BE PLACED AT RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE WITHOUT GOING THROUGH AN APPROVAL PROCESS.** At the climber’s discretion, individual bolts may be replaced for safety reasons. For more information on establishing new routes, contact the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department at 385-5940. Ask for contact information for the Red Rock Canyon Climber’s Committee. A moratorium on new bolted routes will exist until December 31, 2005. After that date, all new routes will be reviewed through a climber committee process. Final approval will be made by the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Service Department.



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In Red Rock Canyon, John G. Bock
Red Rock Canyon Trails Report, Don Ellis

City of Colorado Springs FIMS and Park and Recreation Department Site inventory



Thank you!

*The City of Colorado Springs
Parks, Recreation &
Cultural Services
Department
thanks you for your time and input
during the Red Rock Canyon
Open Space Master Plan process.*

*Through your efforts, we have created
a truly citizen-driven plan that will
benefit the
entire community.*

*The Red Rock Canyon Open Space
Master Plan and maps are also
available on the City's web site at
www.SpringsGov.com/parks
(Click on TOPS)*

